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# THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24 1990

30p

## Major hints taxes may have to rise

### News on interest rates is bleak

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Taxes may have to rise in the Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer indicated yesterday as he gave homeowners and businesses bleak warning that interest rates will stay high for several months.

In the clearest warning that his first Budget on March 20 will be even tougher than expected, Mr John Major said the economy was only "turning the corner" and had by no means fully recovered.

While he looked forward to the day when interest rates could come down, "I do not see that day as being imminent," he told the Commons. "And I do not think it will be wise for anyone to act in the belief that it will be."

In remarks with obvious implications for his taxation judgement, Mr Major disclosed that this year's budget surplus would be lower than forecast, with debt repayment

less than the £12.5 billion projected at the time of the autumn statement.

Mr Major's speech — which raised fears of another possible rise in mortgage rates — was intended to deflate market hopes that interest rates would come down around the time of the Budget.

Senior Treasury sources said cuts should not be expected for the next few

The Halifax Building Society, the biggest mortgage lender, said yesterday that mortgage rates will come under increasing pressure if base rates do not fall in the foreseeable future. — Page 23

Parliament ..... 11 months and admitted the budget surplus figure meant tax increases could not be ruled out.

Mr Major said tight monetary policy must be supported by tight fiscal policy. Much lower-than-forecast corporation tax receipts and lower-than-expected debt repayments by local authorities were the main reason for the reduced surplus.

Mr Major's speech was followed by a scathing attack on the Government's economic strategy by Mr John Smith, the shadow Chancellor.

He said people were beginning to realize "that things have gone very badly wrong in the British economy." Britain had the highest balance of payments deficit in history, the highest rate of inflation in the main European Community countries and its interest rates were the highest of the leading industrial nations.

The Chancellor was hoping to stagger through the months ahead in the hope that when the Prime Minister called the next election the economy would not look too unfavourable, Mr Smith said.

"We end the 1980s disorganized, uncertain, confused and not knowing what govern-

ment policy is."

Mr Major told MPs: "I am afraid there can be no question whatsoever of an early relaxation of policy. Interest rates will stay high for some time to come."

He added: "I know this message will be disappointing to those homeowners and businessmen who have been feeling the pinch for some time, but I can only say that think it would be even more unfair to them — and to everyone else — to relax policy now and risk the problem recurring later."

He coupled his warning with a plea to industry to restrain labour costs, admitting that the Government had still not "exorcized the inflationary psychology of our economy, which was the curse of the 1970s and is lurking on the sidelines again." Wage increases had to be affordable unless people were to "price themselves out of jobs".

Keeping pressure on labour costs was not something the Government could do for businesses. "Businessmen know far better than government what they need to do. I hope they will have the sense of self-interest to do it."

Mr Major said no one should doubt that interest rates were working; there was plenty of evidence to prove it. "But reassuring as these figures are, they simply tell us that we are turning the corner."

"They most certainly do not yet tell us that we are back where we wish to be. That will take time. So I am afraid there can be no question whatsoever of an early relaxation of policy. Interest rates will stay high for some time to come."

Mr Major said industry entered the 1990s in a "vigorous and healthy" condition. "Our prospects for the nineties are excellent. We will bring the economy back on track as a preparation for prosperity in a decade of promise."

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## Schoolgirls wait for scarf ruling



Aisha and Fatima Alvi at home last night as governors at the Altrincham Grammar School for Girls in Manchester met to decide whether they should be allowed to wear head scarves. Earlier in the day the girls, aged 15 and 14, were turned away from classes for maintaining their right to wear the scarves.

### £310m purchase by GEC

## Ferranti sells defence systems division

By Angela Mackay and Michael Evans

Ferranti International is selling its defence systems division to GEC for £310 million, just 24 hours after winning a share of the £2 billion European Fighter Aircraft radar contract.

GEC's takeover of Ferranti's electronic and defence systems was "the crucial ingredient" that persuaded West Germany to drop its opposition to the company's radar system for the four-nation European Fighter Aircraft programme, it emerged last night.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, told Dr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German defence minister, of the takeover in London on Monday.

The Germans had questioned Ferranti's financial viability even before it was disclosed that the company was the victim of a £215 million fraud by one of its

subsidiaries. They regard GEC, which has a massive cash mountain and which joined with the German company Siemens to take over Plessey last year, in an entirely different light.

The deal will give GEC a commanding position in radar manufacture in Europe. Lord Weinstein's company outbid the French group Thomson CSF, which two weeks ago had offered about £200 million for the division.

The division employs about 6,500 people, mostly in Edinburgh.

The sale should ensure Ferranti's independence after four months of struggling to evade its creditors after the company discovered a £215 million hole in its assets caused by three fake defence contracts with Pakistan, China and United Arab Emirates. Sir Derek Alun-Jones, Fer-

ranti's chairman, said he had been negotiating the deal for the past two weeks.

It is a fair deal for them and us. We come a lot closer to solving our problems and GEC gets a big head start in radar and navigation systems," Sir Derek said.

Although the final details of the radar contract have still to be worked out, the financial backing of GEC made it possible for Dr Stoltenberg to return to Bonn with at least an understanding in principle that Ferranti would be chosen for the contract.

Privately the West Germans have always accepted that Ferranti's new generation ECR-90 radar was preferable to the other option, an advanced version of an American system being developed by a subsidiary of Daimler-Benz, the West German company, and GEC-Marconi. They recognized that the

## New curbs on live UK cattle

By Peter Guiford  
in Brussels and  
Paul Wilkinson,  
London

Emergency new curbs on the export of live cattle from Britain will be introduced by the European Commission in a fortnight in the first joint European effort to stop bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or "mad cow disease", spreading across the Channel.

The move was approved by the EC in Brussels yesterday despite strong opposition from Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture.

It was immediately condemned by the National Farmers Union and the Meat and Livestock Commission. Both organizations warned that the decision could have a

Continued on page 22, col 7

### Faceless genius

• Hailed as "the greatest living writer in the English-speaking world", Thomas Pynchon is also its most reclusive. As Britain awaits the release in this country of his first novel in 17 years, we profile the man who once sent a stand-up comedian to accept a major award on his behalf: see page 18

• Three readers shared yesterday's £2,000 daily prize (see page 3). Today's chance to win £2,000: Page 27

## BBC criticized for 'Games ban'

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The BBC is refusing to allow other British broadcasters to cover the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand, it was claimed yesterday.

Rival radio and television companies are being banned from the stadium in Auckland, refused access to press conferences with British athletes and could not cover this morning's opening ceremony because of the BBC's interpretation of the exclusive rights deal it has acquired. Mr John Perkins, editor of Independent Radio News, said:

Details of the BBC's "censorship" of other broadcasters emerged on the day the corporation published the results of a specially commissioned opinion poll supporting its opposition to the auctioning of television rights for the 10 most popular sporting events, including Wimbledon, the Grand National and the Commonwealth Games.

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### BSB 'on air by end of April'

By Matthew Bond

British Satellite Broadcasting, the television venture, intends to start broadcasting to the end of April, according to Mr Anthony Symonds-Gooding, its chief executive.

At a press conference to announce that a final £900 million of financing was "in principle" in place, Mr Symonds-Gooding said that a number of launch dates were being discussed "between the last week of March and the end of April". But he would not be drawn on whether BSB was planning to launch all five of its new channels at once.

Satellite dishes for the service are expected to retail at around £80. The receiver box is expected to sell at £250-£300, but heavy discounting is expected early on as BSB seeks to recoup the 15-month lead of Sky television.

Fall report, page 23

## Three killed as strike halts Baku

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

Three people were killed in new clashes in Baku, the fourth largest city in the Soviet Union with almost two million people. Local journalists said Romania's governing National Salvation Front decided yesterday to contest the general election to be held on May 20. United Nations observers will be invited to monitor the poll. — Page 9

Letters ..... 15

joined the stoppage. In other towns there were also strikes and mass protest meetings.

The wave of anti-Soviet anger appeared to be still swelling. Soldiers have been received threats, and are not being served in many shops. Soviet officials said Komsomolskaya Pravda reported that banners in the city said: "Army out of Baku".

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## Four killed as violent storms mar mild January

By Michael Horsnell

Weathermen yesterday predicted continued wet and windy weather as storms marred the balmy January since the mid-17th century and four people were killed.

The most powerful gust, 115mph, was recorded at an automatic weather station in the Cairngorms, in Scotland, while nearly half an inch of rain fell in one hour shortly before dawn at Birmingham Airport.

One man died when his fishing dinghy was overturned off Mudford, Dorset. He was Mr Russell Broom, aged 22, a non-swimmer of Avon View Parade, Burton, Chichester, Dorset.

His fishing partner, Mr Philip Etheridge, aged 23, was also found on

the beach. He was taken to Bournemouth General Hospital, suffering from severe shock and hypothermia.

An inquiry was under way after another man, Mr William Cann, aged 58, an auxiliary coastguard, plunged to his death over a 100ft cliff while

watching a rescue exercise near Trebarwith Strand on the north Cornwall coast.

A search for two men presumed drowned in the Exe at Starcross, Devon, ended when their dinghy was raised in the river. The alarm was raised by one of the men's wives.

The fishermen were winched to safety and taken to hospital in Limerick, while their boat was towed to safety by another trawler.

Storms in Wales blocked a railway line between Aberdare and Aberconwy, Mid Glamorgan, after the Taff flooded track. Police issued flood warnings on the Cynon, Neath, Cowy and Mawdach rivers after a night of torrential rain.

A ferry heading from the Isle of Wight to Southampton ran into trouble in high winds. The Red Funnel ferry Red Norris, with 32 passengers on board, became entangled round a mooring buoy off Cowes for an hour. Other vessels went to its assistance in gales gusting up to Force 12.

## NEWS ROUNDUP

**MoD to do more for minorities**

The Ministry of Defence promised yesterday to do more to recruit people from the ethnic minorities into the Armed Services, after a report said that young blacks and Asians were shunning a career in the forces, partly because of the fear of racial discrimination (Michael Evans writes).

The report, commissioned by the MoD from Peat Marwick McLintock, management consultants, recommended 21 areas where selection and recruiting procedures could be improved to attract more blacks and Asians into the three Armed Services. However, one of its recommendations, which called for black or Asian recruits to be sent to units which already had servicemen from their own cultural backgrounds, was rejected by the MoD.

In a written Commons answer yesterday, Mr Archie Hamilton, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said that the Ministry of Defence intended to adopt a policy of giving "positive encouragement" to applications from members of the ethnic minorities.

**£1.15m college pledge**

The fortunes of the Government's troubled city technology college programme showed further signs of recovery yesterday with the announcement that Derby will be the site of the sixteenth. The Landau Foundation, a private educational charity, is to put up £1.15 million to help pay the capital cost of establishing a CTC on a city centre site. It will open for pupils in September 1991. The first CTC, at Kingshurst, Solihull, opened in 1988.

**Bank staff worried**

Britain's biggest banking union yesterday called on the Government to act against increasing violence in a report showing there is a raid on a bank or building society every working day (Tim Jones writes). Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, said: "Something like five out of every six incidents involves a shotgun or imitation weapon." Bank employees were increasingly subject to deranged robbers influenced by drugs.

**Journalists go back**

Journalists at the *Daily Record* and *Sunday Mail* in Glasgow returned to work yesterday pending a meeting in London today over the dismissal of a union leader (William Peakin writes). Production of the *Record* was disrupted on Monday night when staff met to discuss the sacking of Mr John Finlayson, the National Union of Journalists' father of chapel (shop steward) for the two papers. Mr Finlayson was dismissed after refusing to attend a disciplinary hearing.

**EC cash to boost jobs**

Mr Des O'Malley, the Irish Minister for Industry, yesterday unveiled a European Community package worth £8790 million which, it is hoped, will generate 100,000 jobs over the next five years. Mr O'Malley said the money from the regional and social funds would "give a major boost to investment by doubling the financial resources available to the Export Board and Irish Goods Council". The minister also predicted a 7 per cent rise in exports to Britain this year.

**Writ before launch**

The *Independent on Sunday*, to be launched this weekend, might have notched up a record even in the current state of libel actions by attracting writs before its launch (Frances Gibb writes). Mr James Garward, chief executive of TVS Entertainment, has issued writs against the new paper after two dummy issues ran a long profile on TVS and the problems relating to its acquisition of MTM in the US. The dummies are designed mainly to go to advertising agencies.

**Labour steps up Militant purge with more charges**

By Philip Webster and Nigel Williamson

Labour leaders are expected today to step up their purge against the Militant Tendency by laying charges against five party members in Glasgow who are alleged to be members of the sect.

As Labour organizers prepare their inquiry into the Militant Tendency on the Wirral in the wake of Mr Frank Field's deselection, the ruling national executive committee is expected to initiate action leading to the expulsion of the five after a year-long internal investigation into the activities of the Glasgow Pollok constituency.

In another development, a deselected left-wing MP is threatening legal action against the NEC over its alleged refusal to investigate his complaints of irregularities in his removal.

Mr John Hughes, Labour MP for Coventry North East, one of three MPs to have been ousted in the present reselection round, said last night: "I drew my complaints to the attention of Neil Kinnock and he promised me that anything I was entitled to under the constitution he would uphold.

"I don't think I have been treated in a constitutional fashion."

In a reference to the treatment by the NEC of Mr Field, he added: "I didn't have a bout of histrionics or threaten by 59 to nine against a ballot for an indefinite strike by 2,000 London crew members.

The action will be presented as further evidence of Labour's determination to root out what it calls the Militant menace.

The investigation into the deselection of Mr Field will be started by Mrs Joyce Gould, Labour's director of organization, after a final go-ahead from the NEC.

Although a dossier by Mr Field deals with the activities of some 40 hard-left activists in Birkenhead and the neighbouring constituency of Wallasey, it is likely that charges of Militant membership will eventually be brought against about 12 of them.

Mr Field's deselection is increasing pressure within the Labour Party for removing the guaranteed union involvement in the selection of parliamentary candidates and to introduce a one-member one-vote system. That is understood to be the wish of Mr Kinnock.

The result, after a 3½-hour

meeting, endorsed the leaders' consistent line that an all-out strike would lose the unions the considerable public support identified by opinion polls.

It will also isolate crews in some areas who believe the only way to resolve the dispute is for a total strike to stretch police and army services to the limit.

Armed with this vote of

**Surprise visitor to the classroom**

MICHAEL POWELL



Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education and Science, with Yuk-King Tong, aged 6, during a surprise visit to Surrey Square School, in Walworth, south London, yesterday. The inner-city school has a record of educational excellence.

**Union chiefs avert ambulance strike**

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

National leaders of the ambulance dispute won a significant victory yesterday when they persuaded shop stewards in London to drop their calls for a national strike ballot.

Shop stewards from 71 stations voted by 57 to 12 against calling for national action and by 59 to nine against a ballot for an indefinite strike by 2,000 London crew members.

The result, after a 3½-hour

confidence in the way they have conducted the 19-week dispute, the five union leaders will meet tomorrow to determine how they can persuade Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, to improve the pay offer of 9 per cent over 18 months.

Mr Roger Poole, the unions' chief negotiator, called on crews that have been taking unofficial action to resume an

emergency service within the TUC guidelines immediately.

"We will not provoke a strike. Britain's ambulance staff are united to achieve a fair settlement and nothing will divert us from that".

"We think the current action is the best way to win the dispute", he added.

**CORRECTION**

Judges at Wood Green Crown Court, London, imposed prison sentences in 38 per cent of cases heard in 1988, compared with 69 per cent at Mold, Clwyd, and not the reverse as stated yesterday.

Reporting The Times overseas  
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**US troops in front line of transatlantic beef battle**

The 305,000 US troops based in Britain and the rest of Europe devour beef worth \$65 million each year in a mountain of steaks and burgers.

This explains why such irate letters are suddenly whizzing across the Atlantic. Starting this year, the US intends to boycott all European beef and fly in the meat from America.

This has nothing to do with BSE, the "mad cow" disease afflicting

British cattle. It is retaliation for the European Community's 1988 ban on American beef that has been hormone-treated.

Almost unnoticed at the time, Senator Tom Harkin, of cattle-thick Iowa, tagged an amendment on to the Defence Spending Bill last autumn which means, in effect, that US servicemen based at RAF Woodbridge must eat beef reared 4,000 miles away

rather than fresh Suffolk cow. To be fair, the Administration in Washington is not keen on what Congress has asked it to do, but that is because of the expense, not the principle. Shipping the beef will cost a minimum of \$10 million annually.

Senator Harkin's amendment also stipulated that Washington should provide \$27 million in subsidies for the US beef over the next three years to make up for the loss of EC beef subsidies. EC officials are furious and threatening to re-retaliate.

What they have in mind is the US ban on \$100 million worth of EC tomatoes, fruit juices, wine coolers and sausage skins which was Washington's original response to the hormone-treated beef ban. They want that figure cut by the value of the beef which the US plans to ship to Europe.

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# Insider dealing case collapses after ruling on immunity

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government's crack-down on insider share dealing was in ruins yesterday after a civil servant from the Office of Fair Trading and her brother, a former stockbroker, walked free from Southwark Crown Court.

Charges had been brought against Sara Joy Coren, aged 29, who worked in the mergers department of the OFT, and her brother, Jonathan Greenwood, aged 30, after a Department of Trade inquiry concerning dealing in £10 million worth of shares.

After days of legal debate, highly confidential documents central to the prosecution case were held to be covered by "public interest" immunity. They were ruled inadmissible and unable to go before a jury.

The ruling by Judge Anwyl Davies, QC, is likely to be challenged before the Court of Appeal. Without the documents, neither case could proceed.

Mr Andrew Collins, QC, for the prosecution, said: "The only course I can adopt is to offer no evidence on Sara Coren and it follows on Jonathan Greenwood as well, as the case against him depends on the fact she gave information to him". Defence lawyers claimed that the failed trial, which cost "thousands of

pounds", had driven a "coach and horses through much of insider dealing legislation".

The Crown Prosecution Service strongly denied any suggestion that the case had been bungled. It is likely that the judge's ruling and his interpretation of the way "public interest" immunity should be applied will be challenged by the Crown Prosecution Service in the Court of Appeal.

Any appeal ruling would be on a point of law and cannot overturn the judge's decision to enter verdicts of not guilty on each of the six charges against each defendant.

The prosecution had alleged that Mrs Coren had passed "sensitive and confidential" information to her brother about City takeover bids. He was able to buy and sell companies' stocks, depending on whether the mergers were to be referred to the Monopolies Commission, a course which has a dramatic effect on prices. Both denied the offence under the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act, 1985, between August 1985 and June 1986.

Public-interest immunity is a common concept in civil proceedings but rare in criminal cases. Information may be granted "immunity" from

Greenwood, a former broker, of Henley's Corner, Hendon, was fined £500 and ordered to pay £250 costs after admitting obtaining a passport by deception and attempting to obtain a second false passport in an attempt to flee to America to start a new life. He was also given an 18-month prison sentence suspended for two years.

Mrs Coren, of Osulton Way, East Finchley, had been suspended from the Civil Service pending the hearing.

## Cambridge MPs fight for agency

By Michael McCarthy  
Environment Correspondent

Mr Robert Rhodes James, the Tory MP for Cambridge, and Sir Fred Catherwood, his counterpart in the European Parliament, began a repair operation yesterday on the Government's bid to host the European Environment Agency in the city, which has been publicly rejected by some Cambridge councillors.

The MPs said they would be lobbying intensively to have the decision formally reversed by the next full meeting of the city council, on February 15, before EC foreign ministers meet to decide the agency's location early in March.

The agency is a prize keenly sought by EC states, for it is likely to become an important institution providing environmental data for the whole of the EC. Cambridge, with its university and environmental institutions (including the British Antarctic Survey), has been thought one of the likeliest candidates.

But some members of the Labour-controlled council's environment committee voted against it last week, fearing it would add to the city's congestion.

Sir Fred Catherwood said yesterday: "Cambridge has a very powerful case to host the agency as it has such an enormous background of scientific and especially data-processing expertise."

The vote has angered many members of the University, which is attempting to set up its own multi-discipline environment centre with money from private industry.

## Baby thief 'talked about emigrating'

By Libby Jukes

Police investigating the disappearance of baby Alexandra Griffiths disclosed yesterday that a woman resembling the suspected kidnapper was seen at St Thomas's Hospital shortly before Christmas. The woman claimed she was adopting a baby before emigrating to Australia with her husband, a milkman.

Det Supt John Bassett, who is leading the inquiry, said that a new witness came forward on Friday to describe a conversation she had on December 21 last year with a woman "remarkably similar" to an artist's impression of "Christine", the bogus health visitor who stole Alexandra from St Thomas's 12 days ago.

The woman struck up a conversation with the witness, a visitor at the hospital, in the women's toilets on the ground floor of the North Wing, near the cafeteria.

"I'm going to adopt a baby," she told the witness, "I'm here

with my husband. He's having checks to make sure everything is all right. We're going to Sydney to live with my sister."

The witness said she believed the woman had a bent upper eye tooth. "If she was trying to hide it, it could give the impression of stammered speech," Det Supt Bassett said. Other witnesses thought "Christine" spoke with a speech impediment. Mr Bassett added: "I would like this woman to come forward urgently. If she is not the suspect, I would like to eliminate another red herring."

Police also issued two new sophisticated "E-fit" impressions of the abductor, compiled from descriptions given by the six original witnesses, including the missing baby's parents. The pictures show a woman aged about 30, with a boyish face, light brown hair, and small, perhaps slanted eyes.

But some members of the Labour-controlled council's environment committee voted against it last week, fearing it would add to the city's congestion.

Sir Fred Catherwood said yesterday: "Cambridge has a very powerful case to host the agency as it has such an enormous background of scientific and especially data-processing expertise."

The vote has angered many members of the University, which is attempting to set up its own multi-discipline environment centre with money from private industry.

## Future tribal queen 'had impeccable character'

By Ruth Gledhill

A woman who died when a simple nose operation went wrong had the right bloodline and the "impeccable character" necessary to succeed as queen of her tribe in Ghana, a court was told yesterday.

Mrs Letitia Yaa Akoome Oduro had good character, knowledge of the royal palace and "the ability to dance in public", the High Court in London was told yesterday.

The princess worked as a lavatory attendant and chamber maid at two London hotels earning about £140 a week when she died. She was the most likely person to succeed to the throne, called the Stool,

of the matrilineal Akan tribe on the death of the present queen — there called queen mother — Mrs Abena Gyamfa, aged about 71. However, Mrs Oduro died aged 32, two days after an operation to wash out her sinuses at Whipple Cross Hospital, east London, in July 1983.

Her brother, Mr Steven Asante, and Mr Michael Kean, a solicitor, the administrators of her estate, are claiming £460,000 damages against Waltham Forest Health Authority on behalf of Mrs Oduro's daughter, Jennifer, aged 12. The authority admitted liability last month.

Mr Poppleton, aged 24, from Battersea in south London, who is two years into his first job as a group product manager in the City, intends to stay only another year or so. "Quite honestly I am using it as a stepping stone to something better in the advertising or marketing sector."

"But I fully agree with the report's finding that I need more training and better tools for the work I shall be doing in the next

## Editors clash over call-girl report

ADRIAN BROOKS



Mr Andrew Neil, left, and Mr Peregrine Worsthorne: Opponents in the Sunday newspaper market and at the High Court.

By Robin Young

The editor of *The Sunday Times* told a court yesterday of his shock at discovering that his former girl friend, Miss Pamela Bordes, was a prostitute.

"I did not believe it," Mr Andrew Neil told the High Court in London. It was only when another newspaper editor showed him evidence that he accepted that she was he told the first day of a trial in which he is seeking libel damages from *The Sunday Telegraph* and its former editor, Mr Peregrine Worsthorne.

Mr Neil said he was appalled and hurt by allegations in the newspaper, implying that during their four-month relationship he knew that Miss Bordes was a prostitute.

A leading article by Mr Worsthorne accused him of bringing *The Sunday Times* into ridicule and dispute and "amounted to the most damaging attack on my integrity and professional reputa-

tion during six years as editor," he said.

Mr Neil, a bachelor aged 40, and his newspaper are suing over two articles and a cartoon which appeared last March. The defendants deny the defamatory meaning alleged.

Mr Carlo Colombotti, a banker from Pimlico, south-west London, was awarded £25,000 libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations in *Today* that he had an affair with Miss Pamela Bordes when he knew she was a prostitute.

and claim the articles were fair comment on a matter of public interest.

Mr Richard Rampton, QC, representing Mr Neil, told the jury it was difficult to imagine any more damaging criticism of a newspaper editor than Mr Worsthorne's article, "Playboys as editors".

Mr Neil said he met Miss Bordes in March 1988 at the

Tramp nightclub in London, where he was in a party which included Lady Rothermere.

"She came over to our table.

She was extremely well-dressed in designer couture and did not look like a page three bimbo. I thought she was very attractive."

She gave him her telephone number and two weeks later he arranged to meet her for lunch. They began to meet three or four times a week and she joined him at business and social functions. "I always felt totally comfortable with her. She was always immaculately presented, commensurate with the company we were keeping and disported herself without any embarrassment to me," he said.

He said that when Miss Patsy Chapman, the editor of *The News of the World*, told him that his former girl friend was to be exposed as a call girl, he was warned her that the newspaper (which, like *The Sunday Times* and *The Times*

was

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PROGRESS REPORT  
NO. 1

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## Judges' training chief calls for sentencing forum

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A formal judges' forum should be set up to discuss sentencing policy, according to the man who oversees judges' training.

Lord Justice Glidewell, who chairs the Judicial Studies Board, was against a sentencing council of judges and laymen, but he believed there was a role for formalizing the discussion of sentencing among the judges themselves.

He said there was a need for a group of senior judges — possibly based on the Judges' Council — to "seek to ensure our decisions are consistent."

"I would like to see an expansion of discussion among the judiciary; some more formalized way of getting people to discuss the problems," he said in an interview with *The Times*.

Lord Justice Glidewell's comments come in the wake of a report from the National Association of Probation Officers on Monday which highlighted sentencing disparities between crown courts.

Describing crown court sentencing as a lottery, it showed that the rate courts imposed custodial sentences for the most serious offences varied from 38 per cent at

Mold Crown Court, Cheshire, to 69 per cent at Wood Green, north London.

The Home Office is watching keenly the debate on sentencing and the gathering support for a sentencing council, an idea strongly opposed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane.

A central plank of the Home Office White Paper, due out next week, is to cut the use of custody — and its success depends on the judges' co-operation. But senior officials are wary of interfering with judicial discretion.

But there is support from some judges for a forum, such as that suggested by Lord Justice Glidewell, where sentencing policy could be discussed outside the courts.

A sentencing commission of judges and laymen was urged by Justice, the all-party reform group, in a recent report; and last March the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies published a paper by Professor Andrew Ashworth, of King's College, London, setting out how such a body could work. Such a council was also a feature of reforms proposed by the Labour Party last week.

Lord Justice Glidewell: "A need for consistency."

### Traffic congestion

## Parkinson plans curbs on lorries

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

Proposals designed to reduce the environmental impact of juggernauts and other lorries in city centres and residential areas were yesterday unveiled by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport.

The proposals follow completion of a five-year study, commissioned by the Department of Transport, the Civic Trust, and the County Surveyors' Society, into lorry nuisance, and the low-cost traffic management schemes needed to minimize the disruption caused by them.

The study examined the entire spectrum of problems associated with the proliferation of lorries, including noise, vibration, pollution, accidents, damage to roads, bridges and buildings, obstruction, intrusion and roadside parking.

It proposes a variety of measures to reduce the side-effects of increased lorry use, such as improved signposting, lorry only lanes, lorry priority routes, traffic calming techniques to protect residential areas, and improved parking facilities.

Mr Parkinson said lorries "offer a very efficient and extremely versatile means of transporting freight, and particularly of distributing goods to wholesalers, retailers, and consumers."

The new guidelines "reduce the ill-effect of lorries, without diminishing their great economic benefit", he added.

Mr Garry Turvey, the director-general of the Freight Transport Association, which represents the British freight industry, described the report yesterday as "a refreshing, common sense approach to resolving problems in local communities through co-operation rather than conflict".

The lorry report is available free in two parts.

*Lorries in the Community* provides general information for local councillors, residents groups, and freight operators; and a *Manual of Guidance on Lorries and Traffic Management*, provides technical information for engineers and planners.

When Lord Tordoff gets to his feet in the House of Lords today to open a debate on London's traffic congestion he will be able to speak from direct personal experience (Sheila Gunn writes).

It is one of the fallacies of public life that peers always

whizz around in chauffeur-driven limousines.

Passengers travelling on London Underground's district and circle lines are as likely to spot one of their Lordships alighting at Westminster as an MP.

Lord Tordoff, the Liberal Democrats' Chief Whip and their transport spokesman in the upper House, uses a combination of London Underground, buses, taxis, his own feet and, occasionally, his car.

For instance, he has discovered that the No 24 bus can no longer be relied on to turn up with any regularity for the trip along the Embankment from his flat in Dolphin Square to the House of Lords.

So, instead, he walks or takes London Underground from Pimlico to Westminster, which involves changing at Victoria.

He will reveal in today's debate on the Government's discussion document *Traffic in London* that he has witnessed a gradual deterioration in public transport, matched by the inevitable rise in congestion as people opt for driving into central London.

The traffic in London is in chaos as everybody knows from personal experience. It is becoming an extremely serious problem.

These problems will not be solved until there is greater investment from Government sources and an overall traffic-transport authority for greater London with can put all the bits together and produce a genuine comprehensive, thought-out programme," he said yesterday.

In his debate, the life peer will call for "park and ride" schemes to encourage drivers to leave their cars outside the capital and switch to public transport.

He argues that British Rail's plans for such schemes had to be aborted because of the Government's insistence that market forces must determine investment plans.

The Liberal Democrats also want "a fairly expensive licence" to be paid by those driving into central London.

Then there must be a proper bus service. It is because bus services are under-funded and unreliable that the traffic is so awful. If we are not careful, conditions will get like Cairo or Bangkok," he said.

It is one of the fallacies of public life that peers always

## Post Office switches on hi-tech counter services

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

The Post Office yesterday launched the first stage of what is set to become one of Europe's biggest retail automation schemes with the possibility that pension and child benefit books may be replaced by plastic cards.

Counters at 90 post offices in the Thames Valley area put away much of their daily pile of paper work and switched on computers that will streamline and expand customer services.

The £17 million project is to be widened into a swathe of modernization in 250 branches stretching from Banbury to Guildford by April.

If the Government gives approval, more than £100 million has been earmarked to

take the scheme nationwide in to 3,000 post offices.

Customers will enjoy faster renewal and automatic printing of car tax discs and computerized transactions of Girobank and National Savings accounts. Within two years, the system will provide automatic information on postal services, computerized payment of household bills and automatic cash withdrawal services on credit cards.

Mr John Roberts, managing director of Post Office Counters Ltd, explained that technology was available and said: "Fast, efficient computer systems will help us break through the paper chains which bound us to the past."

## Dancer faces up to back surgery

TED BATH



Mirror image of Lisa Gorgia, aged 15, from Ilford, Essex, who was nearly crippled by curvature of the spine, rehearsing for a return to the stage. Lisa, who has danced since the age of three, had an operation to straighten her spine last August (Ruth Gledhill writes). She was given a back brace moulded from her shoulders to her hips, which, she hopes, will be removed by doctors today. In spite of the six-hour surgical operation, she has remained a full-time student at the Barbican stage school, London. Before her illness she performed for Young Stars of Tomorrow, whose latest production in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child opens at the Mermaid Theatre next month.

## Battle is looming on Heathrow proposals

By Harvey Elliott  
Air Correspondent

An environmental dispute is looming over proposals to increase the number of flights from Heathrow by using both runways for simultaneous take-offs and landings.

The airlines, led by British Midland, have put forward a five-point plan to expand Heathrow without which, they claim, competition could be strangled, congestion could become intolerable, and Britain could lose billions of pounds worth of business.

The plan would bring day-long noise to thousands of people living under the flight path. Local protest groups immediately objected and began lobbying MPs to ensure that the scheme was quashed.

Mr Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, said that the proposals would be safe, practical, would not require legislation and could be implemented within two years at a cost of no more than £50 million — half the cost of a jumbo jet.

The main proposal is to use both runways simultaneously which, it is claimed, would create an extra 50,000 aircraft movements a year, and to shorten the distance between landing aircraft by half a mile. There is ample extra landing capacity at Stansted, Essex.

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# Union help for overworked teachers to beat classroom stress

By David Tyler  
Education Editor

Teachers and schools must do more to help themselves beat classroom stress, Britain's largest teachers' union said yesterday.

The National Union of Teachers said that it would set up a regional network of counsellors to help teachers already suffering stress. Schools should provide better health and rest facilities, and teachers should be allowed more time to prepare their lessons.

Time should also be given for overstretched staff to seek advice

from their colleagues. At present, too few teachers discuss their problems, according to a survey commissioned by the union from Nottingham University's centre of organizational health.

The union says that stress can be reduced if teachers are consistent and open with their pupils, keep them busy and reward them for good behaviour. It also recommends them to be well-organized, to plan in advance, to establish a teaching routine and to think about problems objectively.

Teachers are also advised to tell colleagues, pupils and parents

exactly how they feel and where they stand, to measure their performance against their own aims, to slow down, avoid coping by simply working harder and longer, to forget work when finished for the day, and to spend more time out of school with people who are not teachers.

The union says they should talk problems over with colleagues, seeking reassurance that they have similar problems, or seek advice from more experienced teachers.

The researchers polled 2,000 teachers in 31 schools, but had only a 27 per cent response.

Nearly three-quarters of those replying said they would consider leaving their schools if it were easy to move on. Twenty-seven per cent said they would like to switch into independent schools, and 23 per cent said they would like to leave teaching altogether.

The report said the main causes of stress were classroom disruption and violence, a general lack of respect towards teachers, too much administrative paperwork (made worse by recent reforms), and low morale caused by poor pay.

It added that the way a school

was run was directly linked with the number of absences among staff, for those lead to greater stress and more teachers seeking early retirement. About 10,000 teachers retired early last year.

Mr Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the NUT, which has 170,000 members, said: "School management is completely out of date. Schools are organized to run the education system of 1945 – not 1990."

The researchers said that teachers complained that schools were too competitive, that staff lacked team spirit and shared standards,

and that they received little help with their problems. The report added: "Teachers also reported a lack of appreciation from others. Staff appeared to have little respect for each other's ability."

Miss Sylvia Jewell, who taught English in a Wakefield secondary school for 18 years, said she had left the classroom because of stress. "I left to open a shop before I went under, and I know what a pressurized world the teachers live in. It is not possible to do it all and to remain a sensible and human person, to be a good teacher."

The union's action plan against

stress includes a helpline to contact teachers and roadside work shops for staff suffering stress.

Local authorities will be expected to train teachers to manage their time properly, and to provide sufficient staff to reduce class sizes. They will also be asked to provide extra planning time, a staff health service, counselling, exercise and leisure courses, and better working conditions generally.

*Teachers and Schools: A Study of Organisational Health and Stress* (free from NUT, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London, WC1).

# Moynihan plots new course in effort to boost school sports

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Cricket and football club coaches are to be drafted into schools to halt the decline in team games, under proposals being drawn up by the Government.

They will be encouraged to take over responsibility for senior sides from teachers who no longer willing to sacrifice their leisure time to train pupils and supervise matches.

Talented youngsters identified by the revised approach may also be able to benefit from new sports scholarships entitling them to advanced coaching at club or county level.

Ministers hope they will be able to interest private firms in sponsoring individuals, in much the same way as US companies offer sports scholarships to college students.

The proposals are in response to mounting concern about team games in state schools, where sports have been damaged by the erosion of the voluntary spirit among teachers and the sale of council playing fields.

Some left-wing Labour education authorities have been hostile towards competitive games, but Labour leaders recently repudiated such attitudes and published a survey showing that nine out of 10 local authorities are worried about the standards of physical education in their schools.

Ministers are also considering encouraging specialist sports schools similar to the

Football Association's National School at Lilleshall in Shropshire. Lilleshall's pupils are boarders, but the new schools would probably cater for day pupils. Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, has accepted that there is no prospect of going back to the era before the classroom strikes of the mid-1980s, when sizeable numbers of staff were still prepared to give up their afternoons and weekends.

With teachers now working on carefully defined contracts, Mr Moynihan has decided to look elsewhere for the skilled manpower needed to revitalise school sport.

His proposals are to be published in the late summer in a consultation paper from the Department of the Environment. It is understood that he wants to see much closer collaboration between schools, local clubs and the

governing bodies of major team games.

Under the scheme now being devised, club coaches would be paid at least their expenses for coming into schools and giving pupils expert tuition in games such as cricket, soccer, rugby, netball and hockey. The reorganization would also aim to raise standards in individual sports such as tennis and squash.

Teachers would still be expected to give children a basic grounding in popular sports but most of the more advanced coaching would be done by qualified outsiders.

Links between clubs and schools would be strengthened so that fewer talented young people slip through the net without receiving expert help to realize their sporting potential.

The minister has been impressed by a rugby coaching scheme run by London Welsh for boys as young as eight. It has been well received by local secondary schools, which have benefited from an influx of young players with a basic understanding of the game.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, the Minister of State for Education, recently rejected proposals from the School Sport Forum for teachers to be paid expenses for taking sport on Saturdays. She said that the Government wanted to hear from the physical education working party for the national curriculum before making decisions.

Mr Moynihan impressed by rugby coaching scheme.

## Campaign on 'girlie' magazines

By Richard Evans  
Media Editor

A campaign to confine the sale of "girlie" magazines to licensed shops was launched in the Commons yesterday.

The latest attempt to curb the display and sale of "soft pornography" magazines comes as the Home Office awaits an academic review of the effect such material has on public attitudes and behaviour.

A Bill introduced by Miss Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol, South, defines pornographic material as "film and video and printed matter which, for the purpose of sexual arousal or titillation, depicts women, or parts of women's bodies, as objects, things or commodities, or in sexually humiliating or degrading poses or being subjected to violence".

She said yesterday her main targets were the 73 "top shelf" magazines, such as *Penthouse*, *Fiesta* and *Mayfair*, which were displayed in high-street newsagents and stores.

Miss Primarolo is proposing that the sale of soft pornography magazines should take place only in premises licensed by a local authority.

Although the measure introduced in the Commons yesterday has no chance of becoming law, Miss Primarolo would like to see a private member's Bill introduced next year and reach the statute book.

## £4m drive attracts only 112 nurses

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The £4 million nurse recruitment campaign launched by the Government last August attracted only 112 nurses into training, the Department of Health disclosed yesterday.

Mr Anne Poole, the department's chief nursing officer, said the campaign which ran for three months and was aimed at 18 to 35 year olds, was "highly successful", producing 87,000 responses. However, only 5,428 of respondents paid the £6 for an application form and career information pack and only 112 of these entered training.

The Royal College of Nursing described the new campaign as a "total waste of money", which enforced the traditional image of nurses as "young, white and female, not very bright and ripe for sexual titillation".

Mr Brian Dolan said it was completely divorced from reality. Part of the reason 30 per cent of recruits left nursing before they qualified, and 30,000 nurses left every year, was because of the "reality" of the job, he said. "We must improve the pay and working conditions of nurses if we are to attract and keep them."

• A £10 million drive to improve the quality of care and service in NHS hospitals was announced by Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister of State for Health, yesterday.

The figures were revealed as Mrs Poole launched a £200,000 phase of the campaign aimed at attracting 13 and 14 year olds. Strip cartoons will depict nursing as a glamorous profession with ample free time, lots of money and a great social life.

Mrs Patricia Collinson, from the nursing division of the Department of Health, said that market research showed that most young people had an image of nursing as "dreadful pay, terrible hours and no social life". The figures will be made from June.

She said £7.5 million would be shared among regional health authorities to help five target areas including improving privacy on wards, setting up bereavement counselling rooms, providing more patient information and individual appointment times.

• The first loans under a £50 million central bridging fund scheme to allow community services for the mentally ill to be built before hospital closures will be made from June.

Susie Smith is a bright nine-year-old whose life has been

irrevocably scarred by a sexual assault. A man has been arrested but the child's ordeal is not over – in the next few weeks she is to give evidence at Maidstone Crown Court in Kent against her alleged attacker.

She will have to relive her assault in painful detail and, in all probability, be cross-examined about the truth of her evidence during an experience that few adults, let alone a primary school child, could relish. But at least Susie Smith (not, of course, her real name) is better prepared than most.

The youngster and her mother have already stood in the witness box, albeit in an empty court room. The child has been assured that her alleged attacker will be standing a long way from her and she has seen where the judge will sit. She has even sipped Coca-Cola as she played in a TV hire room from where, everyone hopes, she will be able to give her evidence.

Susie is among the first beneficiaries of a scheme

announced by the charity Victim Support on Monday, to help crime victims and witnesses facing the trauma of an appearance in court.

A two-year experiment which, if successful, could be extended to all crown courts, is being established at Newcastle, Preston, Liverpool, Manchester, Wood Green in north London, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, and Maidstone. Full-time co-ordinators and teams of trained volunteers will be based at the courts to help the victims cope with the trauma of a court case.

At both Maidstone and Stockton the scheme has been running for several weeks.

Mrs Maureen Utting, a mother of two and a former police woman, is co-ordinator of the Maidstone scheme. "One of the prime reasons we are here is to give victims a safe haven ... to make sure

they are not intimidated by the place, the procedures, or even such elementary things as having to sit alone outside a courtroom among the family of the man who mugged them," she said.

She has built up a team of more than 30 volunteers. On average, each spends one day a fortnight at the court as chaperone, confidante and coffee-maker to the victims of a wide cross-section of crime.

Sam White (again not his real name) was such a victim but, outwardly, not the sort of man to be daunted by a court appearance. A successful civil engineer, he had been viciously assaulted by two men after his car had broken down. Though he had given evidence during a criminal proceeding, he was "shaking like a leaf" on the day of the trial.

Mr Utting said: "We were able to help just by taking him to a private room and sitting with him over a cup of tea."

One problem at Maidstone is that there is no formal referral system of victims and witnesses from the Crown Prosecution Service. Ideally,

as in the case of Susie Smith, Victim Support would like to make early contact with witnesses.

At present volunteers tour the court building offering assistance to those sitting in public areas, or wait for people to turn up at their second-floor office in response to posters in the building advertising the service.

Since December they have seen dozens of victims and witnesses, some of whom have been "quite simply frightened out of their wits" at the prospect of having to give evidence.

Mrs Utting said: "Victims come to court and find themselves in a totally alien and, to many, intimidating environment. Often you can be of help just showing them where the toilets are or explaining the jobs of the figures dressed in black."

"In the end, I think it not only helps the individuals but the process of justice itself: someone who is more relaxed because he or she understands what is happening in court will obviously be a better witness."

## More glass found in apple pies

Glass has been found in nine more packs of Mr Kipling apple pies, the company said yesterday (Ray Clancy writes).

The latest finds, mostly in Scotland and the North-east, come after the company recalled 300,000 packs after a customer discovered glass slivers in one of them.

The manufacturing process was checked yesterday at Manor Bakeries, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, a Rank Hovis McDougal subsidiary which produces cakes and pies under the Mr Kipling name. The company said there was no evidence to suggest sabotage.

Customers have been told to return packs with self-bake dates of January 31, February 1, 2, and 3. The contaminated packs are all special offers of seven pies for the price of six.

## Jobs hope

Up to 150 of the 257 workers facing redundancy with the closure of a Van Heusen shirt factory at St Austell, Cornwall, may find jobs with shirtmakers L. S. & J. Sasse, which is considering taking over part of the factory.

## Acid crash

The southbound lane of the M6 was closed and trains halted after a tanker carrying nitric acid left the motorway and overturned near the main Glasgow-London railway line at Tebay, Cumbria, yesterday.

## Furniture fine

Shaeen Iqbal Farooki and his brother, Ahmed, of Ali Baba Carpets, Bradford, were each fined £4,000 yesterday for selling foam-filled furniture that failed fire safety tests.

## Rail death

A workman was struck and killed by a train yesterday on a level crossing at Nunbowne, near Chichester, West Sussex.

## Job experience

Crime prevention officers in Essex are including security recommendations from a reformed burglar in their advice to homeowners on how to make their property safe.

## Hunt hints at review of poll tax grants

By David Walker  
Public Administration Correspondent

Mr David Hunt, the Minister for Local Government and Inner Cities, dropped a broad hint yesterday that a central element in the poll tax system would be revised later this year.

He promised a critical audience of mainly Conservative district councillors that the Whitehall formula for grants would be "reviewed" in time for the 1991-92 financial year and urged them to tell the Department of the Environment of their anxieties.

Appearing concerned to head off strong opposition from the Tory-controlled Association of District Councils, Mr Hunt emphasized that the new system might produce more income for local authorities than they had expected.

He singled out the application of poll tax to second homes, telling councils to

take full advantage of the estimated £25 million that owners of second homes would have to pay. Under the new arrangements owners of second or empty houses and flats will pay a "standard" poll tax which councils set.

However, Mr Hunt said that as far as 1990-91 went the Government had published all the relevant figures and it was now up to councils to make the best of them. "Yours is the responsibility to decide what the level of charge will actually be in each area, and you have the opportunity to show to your charge-payers the benefit of prudent and efficient management."

• Mr Graham Stringer, Labour leader of Manchester City Council, said yesterday that the council would be making substantial cuts in its spending in order to get its projected poll tax level down.

The Labour group's target for poll tax in Manchester is between £399 and £449 an adult, compared with Whitehall's

target of £314. If Manchester spent next year at this year's level, the poll tax would be £733 a head.

Mr Stringer said it was ludicrous for Manchester to be accused by government ministers of overspending. At least £100 a head of its poll tax would be accounted for by Manchester's contribution to safety nets for other councils and new government rules on municipal debt.

He added that creative accountancy schemes previously entered into by the council would make "no significant impact" on the 1990-91 poll tax level.

• More than half the adult population of England and Wales think rates are a fairer system than the poll tax, according to a survey by National Opinion Polls.

Fifty-six per cent of the 847 people questioned by telephone preferred the rates. There was a sharp divide between Labour and Conservative voters: 15 per cent of Labour supporters believed it was fair, compared with 49 per cent of Tories.

## Minister 'has right to limit poverty payment categories'

Claims that the poor are being deprived of grants from the Social Fund because of unlawful ministerial interference with the discretion of local officials were rejected in the High Court today.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, appearing for the Government, defended the right of the social services secretary to specify which kinds of need should be met by payments.

Yesterday Mr Beloff argued Parliament had never intended to give local officials unfettered discretion to make awards without guidance from the secretary of state.

He said that, for example, it would not be appropriate for an official to make payments to

# Khmer Rouge seeks to win hearts and minds

From James Pringle, Thmar Puek, Cambodia

They came down the street towards the marketplace of this "liberated" town in northwest Cambodia; not obtrusive or arrogant, but with a disquieting aura about them.

People did not shy away but somehow made a space around the four Khmer Rouge guerrillas. As two of them sat down at a table, propped up their AK-47 rifles, and ordered a simple meal, they had plenty of elbow room.

Near by, out of earshot, a correspondent visiting this tiny enclave of Cambodia controlled by the forces of Prince Sihanouk asked a middle-aged woman if she was afraid of the Khmer Rouge, allied to the non-communist "resistance" opposing the Vietnamese-backed regime of Mr Hun Sen the Prime Minister. She gazed at them but made no reply. Her face was impulsive — a mask.

A dozen Khmer Rouge are stationed in Thmar Puek, the "capital" of the area controlled by Sihanouk forces. Their leader, Prak Varin, aged 41, is a veteran fighter who has his harshest duties here.

One of his younger soldiers has shoulder-length hair, and another wears a Buddhist amulet, but they all have the steady, 1,000-yard stare peculiar to the Khmer Rouge and a steady discipline that seems alien to Cambodians.

What seems clear is that the Khmer Rouge, despite its brutal excesses from 1975 to late 1978, when up to a million people are said to have died at their hands, through starvation, illness or execution, has mounted what one relief agency official calls a "hearts-and-minds" operation to try to overcome an execrable image and win popular support against what it projects as a Vietnamese puppet regime in Phnom Penh.

Although the idea of a kindly, more caring" Khmer Rouge sounds ludicrous, non-communist Cambodian officials say that, in its hearts-and-minds campaign, the Khmer Rouge buys rice from the peasants

with US dollars or for gold — and pays well above the market price. In other areas where food is short, the Khmer Rouge is said to give free rice or basic medicines to the peasants.

Just as Site 8, the Khmer Rouge-run civilian camp along the Thai-Cambodian border, is said by foreign relief officials to be by far the most orderly of the displaced persons camps — "you don't commit a rape or a theft there because you know what will happen to you if you do," one official said — so no one crosses the Khmer Rouge inside Cambodia.

Officials say that, because of a reputation for ruthlessness, the Khmer Rouge no longer needs to coerce people in the civilian camps; it controls what it requires porters to carry ammunition across the mine-strewn border.

The same is true inside areas of Cambodia liberated

Battambang and Siem Reap provinces. Sihanouk officers predict that the "Pol Pot" forces will launch a big attack on Battambang, Cambodia's second city, in February.

The Sihanoukists here maintain, without much conviction, that they do not really fear the Khmer Rouge — their supposed allies — in the long term.

"Under an international settlement with a United Nations peacekeeping force in place, and an end to outside arms supplies, the Khmer Rouge will join the electoral process," says one Sihanoukist official. "During such a process, it is quite difficult for the Khmer Rouge to point a gun."

That remains to be seen. But an international relief agency official says he believes the Khmer Rouge, though it has changed its strategy, has not altered its political philosophy.

Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge, should they ultimately gain a military victory, would be run along the lines of Albania or North Korea, he maintains. "They won't even need to kill so many people," he says. "They have already got rid of so many of those who opposed them in the past. Besides people know better than to step out of line."

On the other hand, a Western diplomat who watches Cambodia maintains that "during the last 10 years, they have learned to work with the United Nations, with the international relief agencies, and with the Thais. They recognize they made mistakes in the past, and they are more sophisticated now."

Millarily the Khmer Rouge

may hold up to 6,250 square miles — less than one-tenth of the land area of sparsely populated territory in the north and west of Cambodia.

There may be an estimated

100,000 people under their control.

Since the Vietnamese withdrawal in September, the Khmer Rouge has captured three district capitals in

from their past, admitting "mistakes". "In 1982, we changed," one Khmer Rouge officer recently told a correspondent. "Our struggle became one of national liberation against the Vietnamese. Our policy is now one of justice. We tell people that theft is wrong, murder is wrong."

Thmar Puek seems quite a happy little enclave. If a future Cambodia were like this, the outlook would be upbeat.

Most Cambodians seem to prefer the non-communist resistance, whatever its

failings, to either of the opposing communist regimes.



Khmer Rouge guerrillas holding defensive positions at Phnom Malai, on the Cambodian border with Thailand, a former stronghold retaken from government forces in November.

## Uneasy calm in Battambang as guerrillas warn of fresh onslaught

Battambang (Reuters) — Cambodia's second-largest city, Battambang was peaceful yesterday with no evidence of the rocket attacks on its airport or suburbs, which Khmer Rouge guerrillas claimed they launched on January 5.

Officials said the attack had claimed only one victim — an invalid, aged 84. Mr Mu Chat, a member of the city administration, said: "They did not attack military,

but only civilian targets." The Khmer Rouge claimed in radio broadcasts to have set parts of the city alight in an overnight hit-and-run operation, during which they occupied key installations.

The north-western city, which has a population of 45,000, appeared normal as the first batch of Western journalists to visit it since the attack was brought in by lorry through its decaying and sleepy

streets. East European diplomats in Phnom Penh said that the Government had heavily reinforced Battambang with troops and modern artillery, and built a three-ring cordon militaire.

"I can assure you Battambang will not fall," one diplomat said.

However, security appeared

light. Only a handful of soldiers

guarded the airport as the occasional military lorry rumbled

through the city. The diplomats said they had withdrawn all their technical staff from the city since January 5 and added that one flight to the city had been cancelled because the airport was not secure.

Mr Chat, in a room at a jute factory beneath a portrait of Mr Heng Samrin, the leader of the People's Revolutionary Party, said rail links with Phnom Penh were irregular and that some road

bridges had been blown up. But for market stall holders in Battambang, life appeared normal. There was no apparent shortage of goods and prices were similar to elsewhere.

Local officials said the Khmer Rouge had attacked Mount Russei, 25 miles to the south-east, on Monday, and that one soldier said six guerrillas had been killed.

"But we are safe here in Battambang," said one militiaman.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas have told reporters in Thailand they are building up for an attack on Sisophon, 45 miles north-west of Battambang, and say their ultimate aim is to take the city.

East European diplomats said the danger came from rocket and mortar attacks. "They do have enough rockets to shell the city," one said. "But they need five times their troop strength to occupy it."

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### US seeks respite for boat people

Geneva — An 11-nation working group yesterday battled to find a compromise on the enforced repatriation of Vietnamese boat people, before reporting today to the 29-nation steering committee of the Intergovernmental Conference on IndoChinese Refugees (Alan McGregor writes). United Nations refugee agency officials describe this as a "last chance" for agreement on the repatriation issue.

The United States proposed that a 12-month moratorium be observed on enforced repatriation, beginning this month. Mr Robert Pusey of the US said this would give boat people time to opt for voluntary repatriation under the UN programme. However, Mr Geoffrey Barnes, Hong Kong's Secretary for Security, said that the American plan was unsuitable as it would not deter more boat people from coming to the colony.

### Barons free hostage

Bogota — Colombian cocaine racketeers have released the most prominent of their recent kidnap victims in an apparent gesture of goodwill to open dialogue with President Barco's Government to end the drug war they admit they have lost (Geoffrey Matthews writes). Senator Alvaro Montoya, an insurance company executive, and the son of the President's powerful aide, Dr German Montoya, was freed here on Monday. He had been kidnapped on December 19, four days after Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, a top member of the Medellin drug cartel, was killed in a shoot-out with the security forces. Responsibility for the abduction was claimed by "Los Extradicables", as the leading drug barons wanted in the US call themselves.

### Refugees evacuated

Arava, Bougainville Island — A mass evacuation of refugees from the strife-torn Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville has been completed amid emotional scenes on the waterfront (Robert Cockburn writes). Some 300 men, women and children filled The Kris, a ferry that normally brings in visitors, as it set sail for the safety of the neighbouring island of New Britain. Fires were still burning in the town centre after attacks by secessionist rebels of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army. Three more islanders were killed yesterday by soldiers of the Papua New Guinea Defence Forces who claimed they had captured a rebel stronghold. As fighting intensifies, more people are expected to leave when the ferry returns on Friday.

### Sale of bombs denied

Washington (Reuters) — Israel has assured the United States that it is not selling cluster bombs to Ethiopia, according to the State Department. The New York Times reported on Sunday that US Administration officials suspected Israel of sending cluster bombs to Ethiopia and had unconfirmed reports that the Government had used them against rebels. Miss Margaret Tutwiler, for the State Department, did not confirm the allegation. "The truth is we have no clear, physical evidence that Israel has provided such weapons to the Government of Ethiopia ... and we have been told Israel was not providing cluster bombs to Ethiopia and would not do so," she said.

### Verses' for Tokyo

Tokyo (AP) — One year after Salman Rushdie, the author of *The Satanic Verses*, received a death threat from Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian spiritual leader, the book will be published in Japanese, the publisher said yesterday. Signor Gianni Palma, an Italian who is publishing it in Japanese, said it was purely coincidental that the publication date should fall on the anniversary of the late Ayatollah issuing a religious edict calling on Muslims to kill Rushdie. The coincidence "makes me very, very worried", he said, but he had wanted to bring out the translation as soon as possible.

## Fierce Congress debate looms on defence dollars

From Martin Fletcher

Washington

Congress began its first session of the new decade yesterday with one of the central tenets of political debate in the 1980s gone. The Cold War is over. The need for about 40 per cent of all tax dollars to be spent on defence is ending too.

Every year, there is a fierce debate on defence spending, but this year's will dominate the coming session.

The Pentagon will request \$292 billion (£177 billion) for 1991, a cut of only 2 per cent in real terms on 1990. The Administration argues that sweeping reductions in military muscle are premature and

should await a longer-term restructuring tailored to changed world circumstances.

This June will be supported by Mr Sam Nunn, the influential Democrat chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, but many members of the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives will have none of it.

They want billions diverted from military spending to social programmes, and believe the public mood is with them. They will be gunning for big-ticket programmes such as the B-2 Stealth bomber, the Strategic Defence Initiative and the MX missile, and will demand that US troop levels in Europe

be slashed. Mr Les Aspin, Democrat chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said last week that new high-technology weapons should now be developed but not bought.

Liberal Democrats, led by Mr Barney Frank of Massachusetts, aim to cut \$7 billion from the 1991 budget. "It's going to be hard to argue that we're soft on communism," he says. "What does that mean? That we are insufficiently leery about Albania?"

The White House contends that if and when there are defence savings, they should be used to solve America's huge budget deficit. Even on figures

which critics say are fiddled, it stands at \$100 billion this year, and must by law be reduced to \$64 billion in 1991.

President Bush, pre-empting his January 31 state-of-the-union speech, has emphasized his priorities for the coming session. He wants Congress to enact his long-cherished capital-gains-tax cuts and finally to act on the clean-air and anti-crime legislation he sent it last year. The latter includes the death penalty for drug barons.

Congress has ideas of its own. The first big House vote this month will override the President's veto of a Bill allowing Chinese students to remain in the US after their visas expire. Congress may vote for tougher sanctions against China.

Mr Daniel Moynihan, an astute Democrat congressman, has, meanwhile, horrified Republicans by purloining their anti-tax philosophy. He has proposed a \$55 billion cut in social security taxes, which, for three out of four Americans, are now higher than income taxes. These are artificially high, ostensibly to build a reserve to cope with the boom in pensioners after the year 2010, but in fact to mask a budget deficit that would otherwise be about \$165 billion. Mr Moynihan's

proposal aims to expose that deficit, forcing Mr Bush either to cut benefits or raise taxes.

It puts Republican congressmen on the spot in a mid-term election year, they do not want to vote down a "tax cut" which benefits everyone, still less if Mr Bush is championing a cut in capital-gains tax which is perceived to benefit the rich.

The shadow of the budget deficit will also fall on congressional attempts to increase US aid to emerging East European democracies and to Panama. Some Democrats say peace would be better preserved by aid spending money.

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### Jury convicts hacker whose 'worm' turned nasty

From James Bone

New York

Robert Morris, a postgraduate student, aged 24, who jammed a nationwide system of thousands of computers with a devastating "worm" program, has become the first person convicted under a recent American law against computer hacking.

Morris, whose father is a top government expert on computer security, sat stony-faced as the jury read its verdict after 5½ hours of deliberations at the end of a two-week trial.

He faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 (£152,500) fine under

the 1986 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, but the judge set no date for his sentencing. Computer experts said yesterday that an appropriate sentence would be community service involving computers rather than a prison term.

Legal experts and law enforcement officials have been monitoring the case to see if the legislation, written before disruptive computer programs, called viruses and worms, became widespread, would prove effective.

Three Bills now before Congress would make writing such programs illegal, but Monday night's guilty

verdict may make the introduction of new legislation unnecessary.

Brought up with computers, Morris testified at his trial that he had made a programming error which caused a computer worm — which disrupts a virus in that it does not delete files — to go berserk.

On November 2, 1988, the worm corrupted some 6,000 computers on the Internet network.

Computer experts who analysed the program and comments found in Morris's files said they believed he intended the worm harmlessly to inhabit different computers, possibly

flashing a message to alert users to security "holes", but a small error made it reproduce uncontrollably, crashing machines it entered.

"It was a mistake and I'm sorry," was Morris's last words as he stepped off the witness stand.

The prosecution contended, however, that the "worm" was not a juvenile prank" nor a legitimate research project gone awry, and the jury agreed.

Morris was suspended from Cornell University after the worm incident but has since attended Harvard and worked for makers of advanced computer systems.



making them take icy showers at 4am and sing "My Way" to perplexed shoppers. His company is named after his philosophy — "I Will Not Complain" — a motto born after someone on one of his exotic trips through Papua New Guinea whined so much that he vowed to make all future travellers sign a document promising not to moan en route.

Among the pledges are: "I will not complain if I get eaten or trodden on by animals" and "If I have forgotten something I will not endlessly ask other people if they have got one".

Mr Willoughby says: "Later I showed these regulations to a Japanese businessman and he said, 'Ah, that is the philosophy of life, the path to power'. So, although it started out as a bit of fun, I'm now going to companies and offering them the opportunity to develop this attitude within their firms."

"Management training programmes using role play and

and South America, trekked through jungles, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, Kenya and Stanley in a single month, and recently led a party of 11 people and 35 camels across the Taklimakan Shamo desert in China. He has just spent four days on ice floes in the Arctic Circle "just for fun".

A few years ago he tried Japanese "hell training" for himself and has little to say for it. There is absolutely no self-development there whatsoever. It is purely repetition. You scream things like, "Take heed, there is no value in sympathy" or "To think you will be liked by your subordinates is wishful thinking. I say to you, throw down your shield and allow yourself to feel the arrows of criticism". All the time there is this ridiculous screaming.

"The aim is to degrade, to remove identity. It is very unpleasant. You watch people break down and cry. Most of it is about destroying individuality."



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## THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM

Menacing political and racial fallout from the nationalist uprising in Azerbaijan

## Bonn fears for Gorbachov's future

From Ian Murray, Bonn, and Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German Defence Minister, became the first senior member of the Bonn Government yesterday to question publicly whether President Gorbachov could survive. In an interview with the newspaper, *Die Welt*, he said that "a change in the (Soviet) leadership cannot be ruled out".

He thought it unlikely that Mr Gorbachov could quickly settle the problems caused by the nationalist pressures. It was "quite possible that a lengthy crisis would damage the leadership and its ability to run the country", he said.

Although West Germany naturally had an interest in seeing a successful completion of the reform process, he said that the future was quite open: "We must thoughtfully prepare ourselves as well for negative developments."

However his warning about President Gorbachov was being interpreted as a clear sign that he is fighting to stop the Defence Budget being slashed by trying to make his colleagues realise that there are many dangers ahead before peace can be assured without a strong military defence.

In Tokyo, Mr Boris Yeltsin, the radical Soviet deputy, issued a warning yesterday that conservatives in the Kremlin were keen to extend the state of emergency, already declared in Azerbaijan, to the whole of the Soviet Union.

"I think the conservative group in the leadership is very eager to announce a state of emergency all over the country in order to introduce dictatorship and rule by iron fist," he told a news conference.

"They are trying to make a return to the very difficult past from which we have just begun to free ourselves."

Mr Yeltsin said that, with time and the Soviet people's patience running out for President Gorbachov, matters could come to a head within a fortnight, possibly at the plenum of the Central Committee on February 5 and 6.

"This plenary meeting will discuss the Central Committee's



Azerbaijani demonstrators burning their Communist Party cards during a rally, called by the nationalist People's Front, in the town of Khanlar yesterday.

party's platform for the 28th party congress. It will be a very critical moment," Mr Yeltsin said. If changes to the party's structure and place in society were cosmetic rather than radical and certain dogmas were not abolished, "then we will quickly see the party splitting up into separate groups".

"Taking into consideration the people's dissatisfaction with the situation, that might prompt the conservatives to impose an emergency, Gorbachov must make his choice."

Radical measures might save the party and halt the decline in its popularity, Mr Yeltsin said. He blamed Mr Gorbachov for most of his

current difficulties, saying that his policy of "half-measures and compromises cannot satisfy the population. He cannot decide which way to lean."

"For the past few months he has been leaning more to the right. If the situation continues like that, it won't last long. But if he understands that the way out is in introducing radical reforms, we will support him and then *perestroika* could be reanimated."

At the plenary meeting, he should oust the most conservative members of the Politburo, such as Mr Yegor Ligachov. Asked if he had an eye on Mr Gorbachov's job, Mr Yeltsin replied: "Don't provoke me."

## Iranian protest to Kremlin

By Hazzir Teimourian

More than two-thirds of the deputies in the Iranian Parliament, the Majlis, signed a letter yesterday in Tehran addressed to President Gorbachov urging him to refrain immediately from the further use of force in Soviet Azerbaijan which preceded the intervention, the Iranian press

not to be influenced by ploys of world arrogance and criminal America and treat peacefully the Soviet Muslims, whose hearts are with the love of Islam," the deputies said.

Having failed to report the anti-Armenian pogroms of the past two weeks in Soviet Azerbaijan which preceded the intervention, the Iranian press

portrayed the intervention as an anti-Islamic act urged by "world arrogance", meaning the West. *Kayhan*, one of Tehran's main mass-circulation newspapers, referred to the Soviet Union's current reform programme as "Gorbachov's bloody *glasnost*" yester-

day. The Iranian Government, however, said it merely regretted "the violence" in Soviet Azerbaijan on Monday and asked Mr Gorbachov to grant "the legitimate demands of the Muslim people of Soviet Azerbaijan".

Mr Gorbachov has blamed Muslim fundamentalists for the turmoil in the southern republic and the Soviet media have claimed that the estimated 40,000 Soviet Azerbaijanis who visited Iran clandestinely over the past few weeks have returned with weapons obtained from Iranian

Tehran has denied the claim.

## Pogrom threat sparks Jewish flight to Israel

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Jewish refugees from Azerbaijan arriving in Israel yesterday reported a rising tide of anti-Semitism in the southern Soviet republics and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, vowed that Israel would use "special measures" to help bring more of them to safety.

He gave no details but diplomats recalled that in the past Israel had gone to unusual lengths to rescue Jews from oppressive or unstable regimes, such as airlifting thousands of Ethiopian Jews.

Several hundred Soviet Jews a day are arriving in Israel, partly because they are unable to enter the US which has imposed new restrictions on immigration. Many new arrivals say their main reason for coming to Israel is that the nationalist movements which have sprung up in the Soviet republics have strong anti-Semitic overtones.

"It has not yet reached the stage of pogroms but that is the next step," said one Jewish immigrant from the Ukraine. At least 100,000 Soviet Jews are expected here this year, and the fighting between Azerbaijanis and Armenians has increased the flow.

One of several Azerbaijani Jews who arrived here yesterday, on a specially chartered El Al jet from Budapest, said that there was mounting hostility towards Jews among Azerbaijani nationalists. Mr Natan Sherinov, a trumpeter with the Baku Symphony Orchestra, said that slogans on the walls of Baku houses read: "We give the Armenians one year, the Russians three years, the Jews five years."

Mr Sherinov said Muslim Azerbaijanis had told local Jews that they should join the struggle against Armenian and Soviet "enemies" because "we gave you homes and jobs, and now it is time to repay us". But Mr Sherinov said that he and other Jews had replied: "This is not our war."

Mrs Bella Kogan, a civil engineer from the Ukraine who has also emigrated, said that nationalists there were also anti-Semitic. She said: "In the Ukraine, I had a home and a job. But if we had to go, we were afraid of civil war." Mrs Kogan said Jews were being portrayed in the Ukrainian press and on television as "the enemy" as confused citizens searched for a scapegoat for the current instability and disintegration of the communist system.

Mr Sherinov predicted that the entire Jewish population of Baku, which he said numbered 100,000, would leave over the next three years.

## Crisis looms over Front's role in poll

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

The 145-member National Salvation Front, which runs Romania's provisional Government, provoked fresh controversy after a heated crisis meeting of its full council yesterday by announcing that it will itself contest forthcoming elections.

But it also announced a short delay in the staging of what will be the first post-revolutionary general election, and said it had asked the United Nations to send observers to ensure that it is conducted fairly.

The Front, widely criticized inside Romania for being a vehicle to allow former supporters of the Ceausescu regime to retain power, denied that it would fight the election as a political party, but its critics dispute this.

Announcing the decisions, unexpectedly taken without consultation with the 15 registered political parties, Professor Silvin Brucan, a leading member of the Front's executive, said the election would now be held on Sunday, May 20 and not in late April as previously planned.

Some of the fledgeling parties had demanded a longer delay, but Professor Brucan argued forcibly that the Front had every right to make unilateral decisions on such matters as the election date because of the legitimacy it had gained from leading the December uprising.

He likened the Front's rights to name a date with those of Mrs Thatcher, adding:

"We cannot be more democratic than Britain."

Professor Brucan reacted angrily to hostile questions. At one stage a Romanian journalist shouted "No democracy", and more angry reaction was expected to the Front's bold announcement of final election plans in advance of the first meeting of the round-

table talks between itself and the new parties to discuss electoral law.

The talks have already been postponed and are not expected to begin now until next weekend. British officials have argued that consultations at the round-table should precede such final decisions as were announced yesterday.

One correspondent, who asked how the Front could stand for elections without

becoming a party, was told brusquely that he was "a victim of 19th-century ideological prejudices".

Professor Brucan, the Front's leading intellectual, cited the Greens in West Germany and Solidarity in Poland as similar examples of groups standing for election who, he claimed, were not political parties.

The professor, a former ambassador to the United States and the United Nations, claimed that the Front's formal decision to put forward candidates had been taken after requests from a group of miners and from students, who complained that all the 15 newly registered parties were too unknown to vote for.

He denied that members of the military high command, some of whom hold senior Front positions, would be joining its list of candidates.

The idea of calling in UN observers had been floated informally some days ago, and had already been bitterly attacked in sections of the newly liberated Romanian press.

One newspaper said that it would amount to treating Romania as a war zone, such as Lebanon or the Israeli occupied territories, rather than a normal country conducting its first general election for many years.

Since its foundation, the Front has been strongly

criticized by many leading Romanian dissidents for sheltering large numbers of people who collaborated with the Ceausescu regime.

Faced by scepticism at the crowded press conference, Professor Brucan insisted that the Front's decision to run in an election which it would also supervise would meet the public demand for a quick removal from the system of post-Ceausescu administration.

He refused, however, to specify the exact status of the Romanian Communist Party after several embarrassing changes of mind by the provisional leadership about its legal standing.

In diplomatic circles, yesterday's decisions were seen as likely to increase friction between the Front and Romania's new political groupings, most of which are inexperienced, under-financed and short on ideology. They have already accused it of monopolizing the levers of power, notably the right to appear on television.

Western governments, who have sent delegations to Romania since the revolution, all see a real dilemma over the timing of the election. A long postponement would have exposed the Front to additional criticism that it was attempting to extend its own power without first seeking democratic support.

Many ordinary Romanians, questioned by Western journalists, have nevertheless expressed a desire that the

Front's leaders should stand, since they are the best-known political figures in Romania after 25 years of Communist repression.

Professor Brucan hinted strongly yesterday that some of the parties might choose to stand in the election under the Front's umbrella, leading to a broadly based coalition for Romania's first post-Ceausescu administration.

© Guard increased: The number of tanks and soldiers

guarding key installations in Bucharest has been stepped up, and in some cases doubled because of concern that members of the Securitate and others loyal to Nicolae Ceausescu may use January 26, which would have been his 72nd birthday, to cause trouble.

Although senior government officials have attempted to quash rumours sweeping the city of leaflets being circulated threatening revenge on that day, tension persists.

The threats are being taken seriously by members of the new political parties who allege that most Securitate men are still free.

Mr Nicolae Costel, the spokesman for one of them, the Christian Democratic Party, said: "Army intelligence, using sophisticated communications equipment received from Israel, has intercepted messages between former terrorists who still have heavy weaponry, including explosives."

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Front's leaders should stand, since they are the best-known political figures in Romania after 25 years of Communist repression.

Professor Brucan hinted strongly yesterday that some of the parties might choose to stand in the election under the Front's umbrella, leading to a broadly based coalition for Romania's first post-Ceausescu administration.

© Guard increased: The number of tanks and soldiers

## Markovic plays down big split in Yugoslav ranks

From Dessa Trevisan and John Holland, Belgrade

Mr Ante Markovic, the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, told the nation in a broadcast yesterday his Government would continue to function with or without the League of Communists, after a walkout by Slovene delegates to an extraordinary party congress on Monday brought nearer a formal party split.

Mr Markovic emphasized that he took orders only from Parliament and not from political parties, as newspapers announced that "the League of Communists of Yugoslavia no longer exists".

Mr Markovic also stands to benefit from the spectacle of delegates breaking up the congress without much chance of patching up their differences or resurrecting the communist party which, for many years, clung to its political monopoly while dying on its feet.

To reassure the outside world that the collapse of the party did not mean the collapse of the Government's reformist programme, Mr Markovic sent Mr Zivko Prelić, the Deputy Prime Minister, to the congress to tell reporters that the results of the congress would in no way affect the Government as the party represents only 10 per cent of Yugoslavia's 23 million people.

If anyone has helped to edge the party to the margins of Yugoslav life, it is Mr Markovic. He lost no time in cultivating an image of self-confidence.

announcing that the Government intended to table constitutional amendments on Friday which, apart from proposals to give the federal administration power to implement its economic programme, would also remove the political monopoly.

Speaking in Parliament, when he assumed his post less than a year ago, Mr Markovic said: "We cannot have economic pluralism, which includes competition between private and public ownership, without political pluralism, which means a free contest of parties and programmes."

In contrast to most Yugoslav politicians, who appear humble, Mr Markovic has an aura of self-confidence and obviously cultivates such an image. He has built up his own power base and acts like a capitalist manager.

At the time when Yugoslavia's inflation rate ran close to 3,000 per cent and the national currency, the dinar, had been losing value for years, he declared it open for exchange and announced a package which included new denominations of the currency.

But by tolerating inflation, he may have brought his reforms into question. And his Government's social programme may not prove strong enough to contain labour unrest at a time when many Yugoslavs live in poverty.

However, he has shown that the Yugoslav state and the Government can function regardless of the communist party.

© Guard increased: The number of tanks and soldiers

guarding key installations in Bucharest has been stepped up, and in some cases doubled because of concern that members of the Securitate and others loyal to Nicolae Ceausescu may use January 26, which would have been his 72nd birthday, to cause trouble.

Although senior government officials have attempted to quash rumours sweeping the city of leaflets being circulated threatening revenge on that day, tension persists.

Mr Nicolae Costel, the spokesman for one of them, the Christian Democratic Party, said: "Army intelligence, using sophisticated communications equipment received from Israel, has intercepted messages between former terrorists who still have heavy weaponry, including explosives."

Spectrum, page 12

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# Hungarians agree with Moscow on troop withdrawal

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

Hungary and the Soviet Union have reached agreement in principle on the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces stationed in the country, the Hungarian Prime Minister, Mr Miklos Nemeth, told Parliament yesterday.

Mr Nemeth said he had received a letter from his Soviet opposite number, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, confirming the view of both countries that the continued presence of an estimated 60,000 Soviet troops in Hungary was "unjustified and untenable" and was based on what was described as "old historical conceptions".

High-level talks between Soviet and Hungarian foreign and defence experts are to begin in Budapest next week on a possible timetable for the withdrawal, Mr Nemeth said.

Mr Ferenc Karpati, the Hungarian Defence Minister, said, however, that no fixed date had been agreed on and that a complete withdrawal was dependent on an agreement being reached at the talks in Vienna on reducing conventional forces in Europe.

"If agreement is reached, a Soviet withdrawal would be technically possible within 12 months," Mr Karpati said. But he ruled out any unilateral Soviet withdrawal which, he said, could destabilize Europe.

If Budapest and Moscow can agree on a timetable for

on a new security situation between the two military blocks.

● Minister resigns: Mr Istvan Horvath, the embattled Hungarian Interior Minister who has been at the centre of the "Danubegate" bugging scandal, resigned yesterday in response to opposition demands — a day before the start of the official election campaign for Hungary's first multi-party poll in more than 40 years.

The head of the Internal Security Service and a Deputy Interior Minister have already resigned as a result of disclosures that the service tapped telephones, bugged flats and intercepted post to gather information on members of opposition parties, possibly passing the data on to the ruling Hungarian Socialist Party.

Mr Horvath, who had denied any direct knowledge of illegal surveillance methods, accused the opposition Alliance of Free Democrats, who broke the scandal, of instigating a witch hunt in an attempt to gain power.

Mr Miklos Nemeth, the Prime Minister, followed with a combative speech which portrayed the scandal as a political issue, and warned of "forces who want to make Hungary ungovernable". He said the public now believed the Government was on the brink of collapse.

Mr Horvath announcing his resignation to Parliament.

greatly increased during the 1956 uprising, which was brutally put down by Soviet tanks.

Almost all political parties in Hungary support the idea of a Soviet troop withdrawal, but all tend to agree that, if Hungary were also to leave the Warsaw Pact at this stage, it would upset efforts for an overall European agreement.

If Budapest and Moscow can agree on a timetable for

# East Germany weighs up offers for Wall

From Ian Murray, Bonn and Anne McEwen

and Andrew McEwen, East Berlin

Laid down and riddled with care like old bottles of wine at the Puschkin Alley crossing-point are 40 complete sections of the Berlin Wall taken from the stretch of the Cold War frontier near the Brandenburg Gate.

City workers who began pulling down a 300-yard section of the former "anti-fascist protection wall" on Monday night in the Kreuzberg area of the city were under orders not to damage the giant chunks of concrete fast becoming international collector's items worth millions of pounds.

The L-shaped segments, each 4 ft wide and 12 ft high, were offered for sale by the East German Government earlier this year at 500,000 Deutschmarks (£177,300) each, complete with graffiti.

According to Herr Helge Möbius, of the VEB Limex import-export company entrusted with the sale, the Wall has attracted offers from as far afield as Japan and America, as well as from West Germany. One bidder for a section of the infamous monument is Paul McCartney, the pop star, but Herr Möbius would not reveal how much the former Beatle was prepared to pay.

Limex has received a \$500,000 offer from the United States for a long segment of the Wall to be re-erected there. "The stretch behind the Brandenburg Gate is particularly sought after," says Herr Möbius, "we will drive a hard bargain before we let that one go."

To guard against forgery, each lump of pre-cast concrete to be sold will be numbered and authenticated by a medal stamped with Berlin's old

arms. Some East Germans have objected to the sale. One wrote to say it was "unbelievable" to make money out of something which had been drenched in blood and tears.

But Herr Möbius is unrepentant. Fashionably attired in a suit and slick of manner he thumbs through a pile of colour photos of the section on the table.

"This section of the Wall has some of the best graffiti in all of Berlin," he says. "People are buying it as a work of art."

Herr Möbius says that the moral aspects of the sale have been seriously considered. In consequence, it has been decided that no piece will be offered for sale if somebody was shot against it.

Much smaller pieces of the Wall are being offered but the East German state must move swiftly if it is to salvage much. Despite new painted official notices — in the style of round road signs with a red hammer crossed through — "wall chipper" are constantly at work on the western side, opening up holes as they take away pieces for souvenirs or sale.

The decision this week to tear down a 300-yard length of the wall that divided Berlin for a generation and replace it with a wire fence 6 ft high could well have been motivated by the need to save the valuable concrete for future hard-currency sales.

The Wall was built just inside East German territory so that there could be no question of the Western powers interfering with it. Therefore it legally belongs to East Germany, which says it intends to spend the proceeds of its piecemeal sale on cultural and medical projects.



Up for grabs: An East German border guard watching yesterday as a crane removes part of a graffiti-covered section of the Berlin Wall, to be sold to the highest bidder for souvenirs.

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## Modrow calls for calm after clashes

From Andrew McEwen, Leipzig

Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, yesterday appealed for calm after the first violent clashes in the huge and previously peaceful weekly protests in Leipzig.

There were scuffles in the crowd, estimated at up to 200,000 people, which was calling for German reunification, when a small counter-group began singing "The Internationale".

Their voices were drowned by the angry crowd shouting: "Reds out of the demonstration". Although clashes were on a small scale, concern is mounting that they could jeopardize East Germany's peaceful transition to democracy.

After talks with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, Herr Modrow said: "The danger of trouble — I can't dismiss that. The events in Leipzig didn't really have such a dangerous character, but we have to start from the point that the election process ... really must remain one free of violence.

Herr Modrow said that events in East Berlin a week ago, when an angry crowd invaded the headquarters of the Stasi, were a signal that people should stay calm. "It was a signal for everybody that we must avoid violence. We need democracy in the period of preparing for these elections."

These concerns are shared by Mr Hurd, who emphasized during the talks that the future depended on the elections in May being conducted democratically.

Herr Modrow had told Mr Hurd that talk of reunification was all very well, but that there was a danger of a political vacuum developing

in which the two Germanies would re-unite without any act of political self-determination beforehand.

Herr Modrow, who is to take part in further round-table talks today, has accepted opposition demands for greater participation in the coalition Government, but he made it clear that there was still a danger that the Government would collapse, jeopardizing the elections.

He added that further political turmoil would call into

### Poll demand

Bonn — The West German Government is to seek fundamental changes to the four-power agreement on Berlin so that West Berliners can vote in the West German general election, to be held in December (Ian Murray writes). The Christian Democrats have decided to press the issue, and the Western allies — Britain, France and the US — will be asked to support the idea. The Soviet Union has refused to discuss it.

question all that had been achieved so far. The danger of extremism was coupled with that of instability and tension.

The demonstrations underlined the gulf between the popular mood in Leipzig and Dresden and the cautious line on reunification taken by the Government.

Most political factions favour slow progress on reunification, mainly because of fears that East Germany would be the weaker partner in a federation with its richer and bigger Western half.

Thatcher's paralysis, page 14

## Eight trains bombed

Tokyo (AP) — Time bombs believed set by left-wing radicals exploded almost simultaneously on eight trains in the Tokyo area early yesterday, but no injuries were reported. Japan's best-known radical group, the Chukaku-ha (Middle Core Faction), claimed responsibility, declaring "unlimited war" against plans for the formal coronation of Emperor Akihito in November and against the planned expansion of Tokyo's international airport.

### 23 die in plane

Caracas (Reuter) — A military plane crashed into a hillside near the Venezuelan capital early yesterday killing all 24 people on board.

### Back to work

Kampala (AP) — Uganda's Makerere university, closed three months ago after a withdrawal of government allowances led to a student boycott, has reopened.

### Leader dies

Vicenza (Reuter) — Signor Mariano Rumor, five times Italian Prime Minister and a former Christian Democrat leader, has died of a heart attack at the age of 74.

Obituary, page 16

### Divorce suit

Cape Elizabeth, Maine (AP) — Mrs Dorothy Bush LeBlond, daughter of President Bush, says "irreconcilable differences" have compelled her to seek a divorce from Mr William LeBlond.

### Japanese aid

Tokyo (AP) — Japan plans to extend 1.45 million yen (more than \$6 billion) in non-military foreign aid in fiscal 1990, making it the world's largest donor country for the third consecutive year.

### Cake walk

Baghdad (AFP) — Malek Mahdi Kadhem, an Iraqi baker, is baking a cake 4,147 yards long to be unveiled in Baghdad on the 53rd birthday of President Saddam Hussein.

January 23 1990

## PARLIAMENT

# Major rejects charges of economic confusion

The economic outlook was for modest growth with demand at home

2,750,000 new jobs had been created and there had been a 40 per cent increase in business investment in the past three years. Both were without precedent for a generation.

The supply side of the economy had performed admirably. The decline in Britain's share of world trade had been stopped and was now probably in reverse.

Unfortunately domestic supply had not kept pace with domestic demand over the past couple of years. The result had been an increase in inflation and a rise in the current-account deficit, he said.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs, said that Britain ended the 1980s disorganized, uncertain, confused, not knowing what Government policy was.

The people knew that the Government had been responsible for some big mistakes in the 1980s, and they knew that those who made them should not be given responsibility for guiding our affairs in the 1990s.

Opening the debate, Mr Major said that the Government's general attitude on public spending had not changed one iota. Proper control, tight control, remained central to its economic strategy.

The whole expenditure survey process is essentially about ensuring that we are getting the best possible value for money ... on behalf of the taxpayer. And least that means taking as hard a look at pay and running costs as any private sector employer.

The private sector meets pay costs out of its own money. The Government meets its pay costs out of other people's money and we have to balance the tax payer's interest too.

"We have to ensure that money we provide for public services goes predominantly on the services and not on unjustified pay increases."

Spending on the NHS had increased by a third in real terms since 1979-80 and there had been a substantial increase in spending on social security.

Capital spending on roads would increase by about 25 per cent over the next three years

and capital spending on railways by 75 per cent.

Over the past six years 2,750,000 new jobs had been created and there had been a 40 per cent increase in business investment in the past three years. Both were without precedent for a generation.

The supply side of the economy had performed admirably. The decline in Britain's share of world trade had been stopped and was now probably in reverse.

Unfortunately domestic supply had not kept pace with domestic demand over the past couple of years. The result had been an increase in inflation and a rise in the current-account deficit, he said.

With hindsight, it is clear that we should have acted earlier to restrain this excessive demand growth — and we acted

earlier than the autumn statement.

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corner. There could be no early relaxation. Interest rates would remain high for some time.

Inflation had to be turned decisively down, and stay down. No one wanted to see a return to the runaway inflation of the 1970s. "I look forward to the day when I can say that interest rates can come down, but I do not see that as being imminent." It would not be wise for anyone to act in the belief that it would be.

Nor was it any part of policy to restrain private spending only to let public spending grow out of control. The fiscal stance must be right. There was a prospect of clocking up a further substantial Budget surplus this year even if it would be less than had been thought. The debt repayment now looked likely to be less than the £12.5 billion projected at the time of the autumn statement.

Corporation tax receipts were lower than forecast, due in part to higher levels of investment than had been estimated. Local authority debt repayment was lower than expected. But there would still be healthy fiscal surplus this year.

The economic outlook was for modest growth with demand at home pretty flat. It was not the most appealing prospect. But the alternative, allowing the economy to face the coming decade under a serious inflation handicap, would be unaffordable.

British industry entered the 1990s in a vigorous and healthy condition that would have been unthinkable a decade ago. Far from being divisive, the economic and social changes in the 1980s had eroded the them-and-us better.

"The crucial difference is, when we had a manufacturing sector, we made goods and sold them to people abroad. Now we have shops which sell imported goods that other people make."

The medium-term financial strategy used to be the very rock upon which Conservative economic policy was based, but Mr Major had not even mentioned it today.

The Chancellor was hoping somehow to get by to the next election, to stagger through the months ahead in the hope that when the Prime Minister blew the whistle for the next election, the economy would not look "too unfavourable".

Mr Smith said that hype, exaggeration, self-congratulation, casuistry and complacency



## Thatcher reply on Stalker

The Prime Minister told MPs she could not understand why Mr John Stalker was delaying giving to the "appropriate authorities" the evidence of which he has been speaking in public.

Mr Cecil Franks (Barrow and Furness, C) had asked her to confirm that the hallmark of a free and civilized society was the rule of law, and that people who had power and authority were subject to that law, and that all were equal before the law. "Will

she consult with her Cabinet colleagues about the apparent assertion of the former Chief Constable of Northern Ireland that a man no longer remains innocent until proven guilty and the apparent introduction by the Chief Constable of Manchester of the concept of guilty by association."

Mrs Thatcher: The rule of law and equality before the law are the hallmarks of a civilized society, and the very cornerstone of ours. I know that he feels strongly on the matter, but the Home Secretary has made clear already that he sees no case for an inquiry.

If Mr Stalker has information which he thinks affects his case, he should make it available to the appropriate authorities as soon as possible. I cannot understand why he is delaying.

"Will she confirm that no matter what happens in the rest of the world, in this country, in these islands, justice and freedom from fear prevail?"

The Queen might find it easier to plan her engagements if there were a fixed date for the State Opening of Parliament, a Conservative peer told the Lords.

Viscount Mountgarret (C) commented: The Sovereign might find it easier to manipulate her diary if she knew what we were doing.

He wanted the State Opening, except for the first after a general election, on a fixed date.

Lord Belstead, Leader of the House, told him that the Government felt that the length of a session depended on the business to be conducted and that this inevitably varied from session to session. A fixed date would remove flexibility and "might not possibly suit the Royal programme". Viscount

Mountgarret said that the way that business was conducted now produced a somewhat undignified appearance because the Government could, and did, change the date to suit its own purposes.

Lord Belstead could see the attractions of a fixed date for many reasons, but it might not suit the needs of Parliament. This matter had been examined in 1914 by the procedure committee of the Commons, and again in 1923. On neither occasion had it been thought that a fixed day was the answer.

Lord Seear, deputy leader of Liberal Democrats in the Lords: Quite a lot has happened since 1923 (laughter). Lord Belstead replied that it was "too soon to go around that particular course again".

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Lord Seear, deputy leader of Liberal Democrats in the Lords: Quite a lot has happened since 1923 (laughter). Lord Belstead replied that it was "too soon to go around that particular course again".

Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead, Lab), chairman of the Select Committee on Social Services, welcomed Mr Freeman's statement, adding that in the last 10 years more than 40,000 long-term patients had been discharged to go into the community with nowhere to go and many were now wandering the streets. How much new money would the Government provide?

"We hope to bring forward proposals in due course."

Sir William Clark (Croydon South, C) said that mentally ill people discharged from a hospital in Croydon were put in bed-and-breakfast accommodation by the local authority and spent the day walking the streets. "It is all very well for the minister to say that this will be dealt with in 1991. What is going to happen between now and 1991?"

Mr Freeman said that districts health authorities had been given due notice that they must make progress within 12 months in providing care programmes. "It is not possible to reform procedures overnight. We have made substantial progress."

Mr Freeman reached the point of helping those who had been released. Mr Freeman said that his district health authorities had until April 1991 to prepare a proper care programme for all those discharged. Additional funds would be provided for local authorities to improve the quality of social care.

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## Cricket tour 'no breach of pact'

The Prime Minister was urged at question time to tell the rebel cricketers in South Africa to pack their bags and come home. Mr George Howarth (Knowsley, North, Lab) said that the tour was a breach of the Gleneagles agreement.

Would the Prime Minister accept the words of Sebastian Coe, describing the rebel players as "nothing less than mercenaries"?

Mr Thatcher said that the Minister for Sport, Mr Colin Moynihan, had indicated the Government's views. It had tried to persuade them not to go. The tour, however, was not in breach of the Gleneagles agreement.

## MP in Osaka festival post

Sir Julian Ridsdale (Harwich, C) will be appointed Commissioner General in charge of the Osaku Garden Festival.

Mrs Thatcher announced at question time, when Sir Julian welcomed Government help for the festival, to be attended by 40 countries.

## Praise for Delors

M Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, was praised by the Prime Minister when at question time he welcomed comments he had made at the European Parliament last week.

Mr William Cash (Stafford, C) said that M Delors had last week placed new and positive emphasis on national parliaments. This was a very welcome move.

Mrs Thatcher said that she welcomed each and every recognition of the part national parliaments played in democratic accountability. M Delors' speech was very welcome.

## Set-aside land

The Countryside Commission has drawn up agreements with farmers covering more than 3,500 hectares of set-aside land, which is to be managed to provide benefits for landscape and wildlife and new areas of countryside for the public to enjoy.

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, Under Secretary of State, Environment, said in a written reply.

## Badger fines

A Bill to protect badger sets and impose fines of up to £2,000 for anyone digging at or near a sett was introduced in the Commons under the 10-minute rule by Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab).

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions on Opposition motions on Government schools policy and on disabled people.

Lords (2.30): Debates on London's traffic and on Hong Kong.

## Inquiry on incinerator sites in NE

Issues common to the proposed construction of three toxic-waste incinerator plants in the north-east of England are to be dealt with at a joint inquiry, Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, told MPs late on Monday.

He said that although the three incinerators, at East Horden, Tyneside, and at Seal Sands and Portrack, Teesside, were 40 miles apart, there was a significant overlap in the waste streams which the incinerators would deal with. The first two sites are already subject to an appeal and Teesside Development Corporation is considering an application in respect of the third.

He said that although the three incinerators, at Seal Sands and Portrack, Teesside, were 40 miles apart, there was a significant overlap in the waste streams which the incinerators would deal with. The first two sites are already subject to an appeal and Teesside Development Corporation is considering an application in respect of the third.

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# In defence of the Ceausescus

On Christmas Day, Nicu Teodorescu accepted the role of defence counsel in the secret trial of Romania's hated tyrants. Today he gives Paul Martin his account of their final hours

**N**icu Teodorescu hand with his clients: the Ceausescus were already seated in court when he arrived. Only three civilian observers were present, together with the five judges and assessors, the two prosecutors, two defence lawyers, and a video cameraman. No witnesses were called. Teodorescu estimates that the trial took two to three hours.

He says that he tried to explain to his clients that their only hope of avoiding the death sentence was to plead mental instability. "But when I suggested it, Elena in particular said it was an outrageous set-up. They felt deeply insulted, unable or unwilling to grasp their only lifeline. They rejected my help after that.

I had always thought Elena was the dominant force in their partnership, but I soon came to realise Nicolae was in command. They complemented each other perfectly — like a monster with two heads.

"I do not believe the court was instructed in advance to sentence them to death. But I had no doubt there would be no other outcome. If they had called for witnesses I believe the court would have refused — the case against them was too strong." The Ceausescus were charged with corruption, embezzlement of funds, economic impoverishment of the nation and the murder of 65,000 people. In his summing up, Teodorescu said that he, too, thought them guilty.

The most startling fact to emerge from Teodorescu's testimony is that the Ceausescus did not die before anything that resembled an orderly firing squad.

"The first they knew they were about to die was when the first bullets hit them," Teodorescu avers. "It was a mere quarter of an hour or so after the death sentence



The tyrants and the advocate: Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu, pictured shortly before they were executed, and (inset), their counsel Nicu Teodorescu

was pronounced. They thought they were walking across the barracks yard to a cell, when suddenly there was a huge burst of fire. I was only there by chance: I'd just collected my coat and was on my way across the same yard about 30 metres away.

"I can't say how many people fired, or if there was any command. But I could see the soldiers let rip. Elena and Nicolae fell head to head. As they fell their bodies spun slightly round and they fell close to each other, about 30 centimetres apart."

If Teodorescu's account is accurate, it would seem likely that it was only later that the bodies were thrown against a wall for the benefit of the camera. "Ceausescu was convinced all along his Securitate would rescue him. He never thought the trial would end, and when it ended he showed absolutely nothing but contempt when death was pronounced," Teodorescu says.

"In the recess between the end of the trial and the sentencing, Ceausescu turned to the prosecutor and snapped at him: 'What you're saying is a calumny. When this is over I'll have you put on trial! We all laughed.'

When the Ceausescus' trial was broadcast on Romanian television the only faces shown were those of Elena and Nicolae. The lawyers, judges and observers were never

seen: those revealed as participants in the trial would, it was feared, become immediate prime targets for the Securitate loyalists. Yet Teodorescu, who has refused to identify any other participants in the trial, proclaims he has nothing to fear. "I was never afraid," he insists.

Teodorescu had less cause to hate the Ceausescus than most Romanians. He admits that lawyers retained somewhat more independence than the bulk of the population, and enjoyed a privileged lifestyle. In his office in Bucharest a huge packet of Kent cigarettes stood on his cabinet — the ubiquitous black market currency.

Yet, he says: "When I saw them dead, as a lawyer I didn't feel anything at all. But as a citizen I, like everybody, rejoiced. It was the most beautiful Christmas in my whole life."

Two days later, as he lay recovering painfully from his own bullet-wound, Teodorescu was told that his 19-year-old son had been killed. An army conscript who had just begun his national service, he had fallen in action against Securitate gunmen three days before the Ceausescu trial.

Now the show trials loom of Ceausescu's henchmen, and of his own sons Nicu, the playboy heir apparent, and Valentin, the corrupt chief of the nuclear programme. His daughter, Zoe, is also likely to face the people's tribunals.

But would Teodorescu accept a brief to defend them? "I defended Ceausescu free of charge. It seemed my duty to do so. But there isn't enough money in the world to make me stand on Nicu's side," he says. "I have had more than enough of the Ceausescus for one lifetime."

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## The flavours of Marseilles

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Marseilles is a city that is warm, welcoming and profoundly Mediterranean. It also has a continuing reputation for lawlessness and gangsterism, and the right-wing politics of Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Philip Jacobson, our Paris correspondent, reports in *The Times* on Saturday from the quays and back streets of what was once one of the world's greatest ports, and which remains one of the most exciting cities in France.

## If nobody will fit The Bill

Police authorities run into problems finding top men for their forces

officers of a suitable rank. Critics say the problems can start right there.

Some officers do not apply because they know the force has a deputy chief constable who is a top candidate. Other officers, though talented, prefer the quiet life in a county force and shun urban service.

They may not necessarily lose financially — the Norfolk job, with 1,338 officers, offers a salary and perks totalling £57,000 a year against the £59,000 on offer to the man who takes command of 6,684 officers in the West Midlands.

The authority may pitch its advertisement wrongly. West Midlands, for example, may have set too high a standard by originally seeking officers of chief constable rank. It has now opened applications to officers such as deputy chief constables and assistant chief constables.

The applicants are screened by the authority, which sends

a shortlist to the Home Office. Legally, the Home Secretary has no role in the selection process other than to approve or disapprove the selected candidate. In reality, the Chief Inspector of Constabulary and senior civil servants scrutinize the applicants and the authority is given a pecking order.

At the top of the list are the candidates or candidate the Home Secretary would be "pleased to approve"; they are followed by those he simply "would approve", then by those of whom he would not approve. Home Office officials may also steer officers to apply for certain jobs.

The local authorities believe this system removes choice and argue that the Home Office should keep its distance. Senior officers believe the police authorities need guidance and perhaps more help.

One senior officer spoke of a

"lottery", in which the final selection may be done by a special committee, a handful of authority members, or with the entire authority questioning each of the shortlisted candidates for 30 minutes or more. In Norfolk, some of the top deputy chief constables in the county were turned down last year.

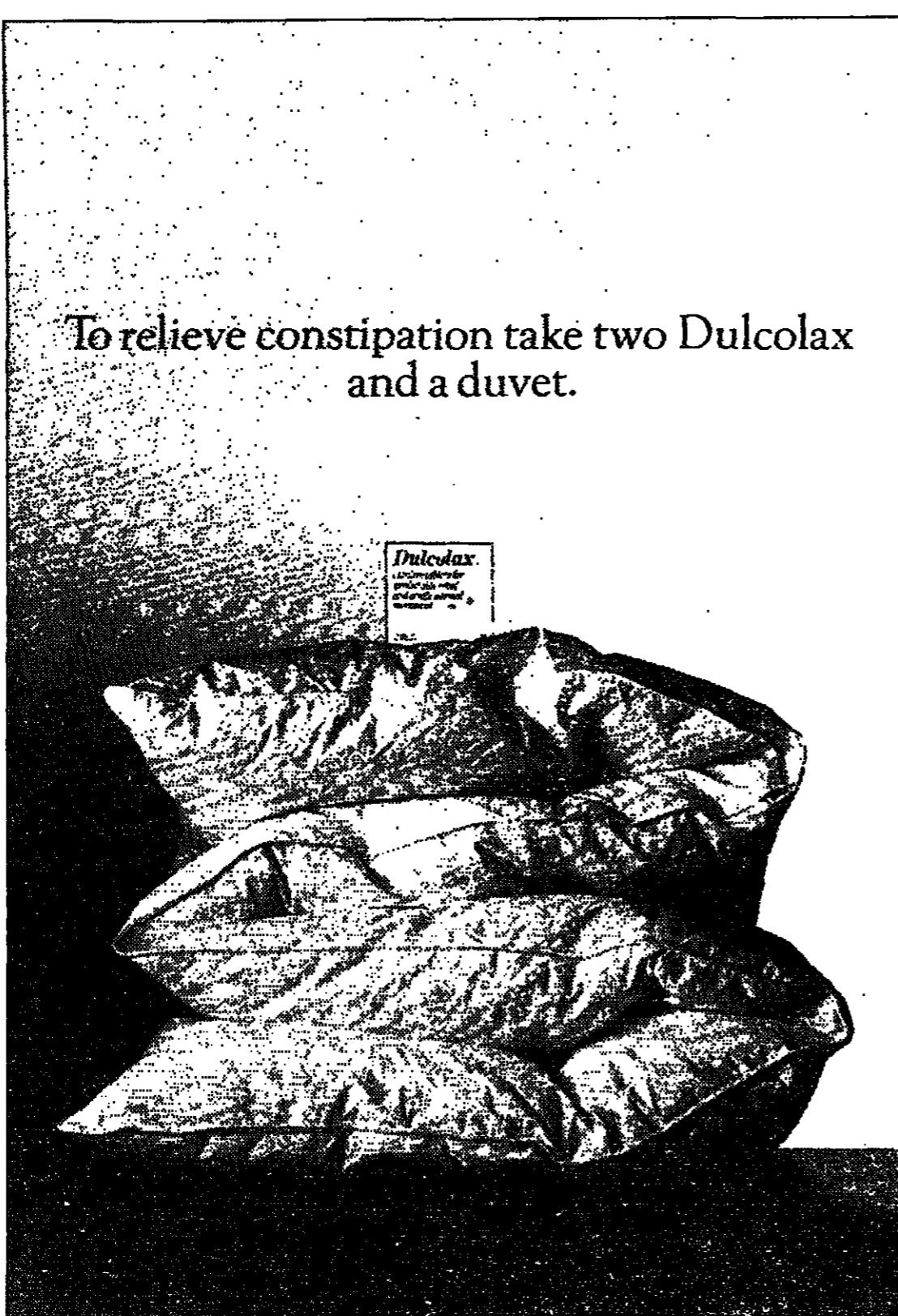
Better by far, according to one officer, was the system used to choose the Royal Ulster Constabulary's chief constable last year, when authority officials and members canvassed opinions widely about each candidate. The final choice was then made after lengthy interviews.

Last year, the Select Committee on Home Affairs suggested taking even more of the selection system from the police authorities by placing top officers in a pool under Home Office auspices so careers had more central direction.

The police talk of a halfway house, suggesting that instead of open competition, the Home Office should openly give authorities a list of candidates from which to choose. Officers could be placed on a list of seniority and might be offered promotion as they came to the top of the list. If they did not take up the job, they would move down the list.

Stewart Tendler

To relieve constipation take two Dulcolax and a duvet.



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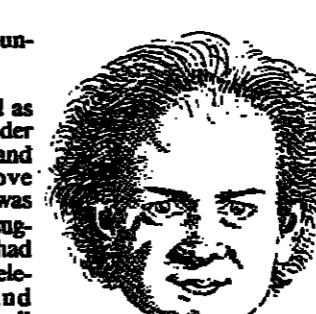
## Walk on the ruined wild side

One of the most captivating programmes on Radio 4 involves two people walking in the country, exclaiming with delight whenever they spot a pied flycatcher or a wild daffodil or an ancient copper beech. It is particularly nice to listen to when stuck on the M25. It reminds you of what a walk in the countryside is really like.

Or does it? Perhaps it reminds you instead of what people who are stuck on the M25 like to think a walk in the countryside is really like. I have been staying this week in the countryside of Wiltshire with a friend of mine, Mr Wood, who is a devout member of all sorts of countryside organizations, including Freedom to Roam, the Society for the Preservation of Rural Hedgerows, and many more.

I was looking forward to a bracing walk with him on the Wiltshire Downs, ready to delight in him pointing out to me the little furry animals, the medieval shrubs, the glorious hill formations, the twittering bird life.

We set off at a cracking pace, and our boots had only just hit mud when Mr Wood pointed up into the air and exclaimed: "Look at that! With a thrill in my heart, I looked up, hoping to see an arrow of geese winging its way towards the horizon. "Bloody hang-giders!" he said. "Ruin-



CRAIG BROWN

there! They should be ashamed of themselves!" I peered harder. Through a tiny crack in the trees, I could see, miles away in the furthest distance, a caravan parked by the side of a road. "Caravans are ruining our countryside, ruining it," said Mr Wood.

To cheer him up, I told him the funny, true story of a friend of mine from Scotland, who, having been lent a caravan, rang up a duke of his acquaintance to ask him whether he could park for a couple of nights on his land. The telephone was answered by the butler, who said that the duke was out. My friend then explained his request to the butler, and asked if he could pass it on. "I wonder if you are aware sir," replied the butler, "that his grace is this year's president of the Anti-Caravanners' Association?"

Mr Wood did not seem to see the funny side of my amusing anecdote. "You don't have an address for the Anti-Caravanners' Association?" I'd like to join," he said. By this time we had

emerged from the pretty wood, and we were now on the top of the downs, overlooking acres and acres of beautifully smooth fields stretching as far as the eye could see.

"Wouldn't it have been like in the old days," he said. "No," I replied, "a lot less neat and tidy, I suppose." But that was not what he had meant at all. He was making a point, he continued, against the ruthless cutting-down of hedgerows that has taken place in recent years.

Before the walk had ended, Mr Wood had pointed out many of the local landmarks that consume his interest.

While we were crossing a 16th-century bridge over a blue-grey stream, he sounded off against a small crop of Christmas trees that had been planted somewhere in the distance, and then as we were taking a breather on the top of a hill he drew my attention to a tiny outcrop of trees, far, far away, and told me what a disgrace it was that a number of fridges had been dumped there.

And so ended our walk. It had seemed rather different to the country walks on Radio 4, in which the two walkers become excited about all that the countryside has to offer, and can identify at a 100 yards

whatever arouses their interest. But, then again, perhaps it was not so very different.

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"They complemented perfectly — they were like a monster with two heads"

been more revealed as participants in the trial would, it is feared, become immediate targets for the Securitate's agents. Yet Teodorescu, who has failed to identify any other participant in the trial, proclaims he is "nothing to fear." "I was never afraid," he insists.

Teodorescu had less cause to hate the Ceausescu than any Romanian. He admits that he was trained somewhat more independently than the bulk of the Securitate and enjoyed a post-Bucharest a huge number of cigarettes stashed on his cabin — the ubiquitous black minuscule.

Yet he says: "When I was tried, as a lawyer I didn't do anything at all. But as a citizen like everybody, I reported it as the most beautiful Christmas of my whole life."

Two days later, as he is recovering painfully from his bullet-wound, Teodorescu is told that his 18-year-old son has been killed. An army conscript who had just begun his national service, he had fallen in love against Securitate gunmen the day before the Ceausescu trial.

Now the show trials begin. Ceausescu's henchmen, and his own sons, Nedea, the playboy, his apparent, and Valentin, the right-hand of the nuclear programme. His daughter, Zoe, is also there to see the people tortured.

But would Teodorescu attempt to defend them? "I defend Ceausescu free of charge," he says. "I do my duty to do so. In there was enough money in the world to make me stand on Nedea's side." He says: "I have had no thanks or such of the Ceausescu for doing that."

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# TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

The Prime Minister has suddenly gone very quiet. I don't mean she has become less forthright and outspoken; simply that the Speaker has complained twice now that MPs cannot hear what she is saying during question time. As a result, the microphone above her customary place has been repositioned and the select committee which oversees MPTV is conducting an inquiry. The obvious answer, that the hearing problem is a result of rowdiness, has been rejected. More likely, I am sorry to report, is that Mrs Thatcher herself to blame. It is said that she no longer leans over the despatch box because it gives the television cameras an unflattering view of the top of her head. Instead, she now turns sharply to the right to answer questions, allowing the camera in the centre of the chamber to capture a more flattering profile. It is also thought that she has lowered her voice deliberately to avoid giving the impression that she is hectoring.

The Conservative Party duly

Last week you may recall, I wondered whether the Scottish Labour MP Ron Brown had paid his poll tax which became due north of the border last April. The answer, I can now reveal, is that he definitely has not, and has no intention of paying. He has that on the word of his remarkably cheerful wife, May. She added, with a laugh: "We haven't got any money left to pay now even if we wanted to." So was Ron planning another court appearance after his "moral victory" at Brighton? May says they are expecting the sheriff with a warrant "any day".

Does the Prime Minister have any plans to visit Bournemouth during 1990, David Atkinson, the Bournemouth East MP, asked yesterday. Back came the standard reply: "I have at present no plans to do so." Downing Street has slipped. This year, abandoning the Blackpool-Brighton monopoly, the Tories are holding their annual conference in - yes, Bournemouth.

Early day Commons motions numbers 346 and 347, tabled by Liberal Democrat MPs Kennedy, Kirkwood, Bruce and others, congratulate respectively local party workers in Kincardine and Deeside on their campaign over heating allowances for the elderly, and Lib Dems in Brentwood and Ongar on their survey of local doctors' opposition to the health service review. Nothing exceptional about that except that the two constituencies are held respectively by Alick Buchanan-Smith and Robert McCrindle, who, because of serious illness, are widely believed to have been two of the three Conservative MPs who failed to vote in the Tory leadership election. Bad taste or mere coincidence?

BARRY FANTONI



David Hunt, who as environment minister wound up the Commons debate on the poll tax last week, made a tremendous impression on both sides of the House. He sat through the entire six-hour debate without once leaving his seat and then spoke in reply for half an hour without notes. Hunt is very modest about his achievements, but I learn he has something of a reputation as a crack debater. He won the *Observer* Mac award in 1967 and as a result was invited on a debating tour of the United States, where he was given five minutes' warning of his subject. After Chris Patten, the Secretary of State, had told him on Thursday morning that he intended to open the debate without notes, Hunt could hardly refuse the challenge.

The appointment of Dr Julian Lewis as deputy director should enliven the Conservative Research Department. It was Lewis who infiltrated Newham North East constituency Labour party in 1975 to help the then Labour MP, Reg Prentice, in his fight against the Trotskyists trying to unseat him. Prentice subsequently followed Lewis into the Conservative Party. Lewis has since been involved in a series of colourful anti-CND stunts and should bring - how can I put this diplomatically? - flair and originality to Tory tactics in the run-up to the next general election.

High on the wall of the cavernous bar in the ADC Theatre in Cambridge, there used to hang a mug-shot of the inscrutable Sir Peter Hall. An inscription underneath read: "To the ADC. Thanks for allowing me to make all my mistakes."

When I was an undergraduate, we looked on this dictum with gratitude and respect and went off and made mistakes all over the shop. My favourite was *Kamikaze*, a blank verse tragedy in paper mache masks, climaxing in a mimed disembowelling to hollow knocks and tinkles. Opinion was divided as to whether it was a haunting masterpiece or a nightmarish bore, though not divided very far, because only three people came to see it, and one walked out after ten minutes. He did return - for his newspaper - and so walked out twice. This was too much. As director,

it was my duty to chase him downstairs and look cross. "But it was an awful play," he said apologetically. Like Sheridan Morley, he missed the point of undergraduate theatre entirely.

On Friday, Stephen Sondheim started lecturing at Oxford. "For those of us who spent most of our Oxford undergraduate careers campaigning futilely for a department of drama," wrote Mr Morley on this page, "this is great news." Well, for those of us who spent most of our undergraduate years directing, writing and appearing in undergraduate monstrosities, it is calamitous news. The ADC - the rough equivalent of OUDS, though a more

distinguished and better-smelling institution - is the semi-official undergraduate theatre of Cambridge. It is run by undergraduates, sometimes passably, rarely efficiently, but usually in the proper immature, selfish, *ad hoc* manner. It causes misery to the unfortunate don appointed to oversee its finances.

In my day, this don could look but not touch. There was no official professor to reject crackpot ideas; no retired old has-been with an axe to grind; not even a world-class genius in whose thrall everybody stood. If the 20-year-old, self-important, over-dressed president refused to allow you to put on your mould-breaking

reflected these different opinions, from those of anti-market MP to those of MEPs who were - and remain - committed European federalists. Until very recently, these differences could be contained in a single party. But rubbing along and agreeing to disagree is barely possible any longer. Last year, the forces threatening to drive the two Conservative positions apart gained strength. The programme to complete the single market among the Twelve has given new voice to the advocates of greater monetary and political integration, while the revolutions in Eastern Europe and the reopening of the German question have made some issues over the future of the EC unavoidable.

Yet Mrs Thatcher has avoided them. She is often characterized as being opposed to the EC. In the sense that she feels disaste for its institutions, that is plainly true, but her actions and statements over the last six months

reflect more of indecision than of a clear plan of opposition.

Her Bruges speech in the autumn of 1988 was not followed up; rather, in speeches last year, John Major and Douglas Hurd went as far as Cabinet ministers can towards cancelling the message of Bruges without actually disowning the Prime Minister's pronouncements. This kinder and gentler tone when speaking of Europe became more noticeable after the Conservatives took a hammering in the European Parliament elections last June. Coached by Hurd, Mrs Thatcher sang harmoniously in the communiqué chorus at the Strasbourg summit last month.

The new line may fall short of the enthusiasm which some

would like the Government to show for Europe, but it is nevertheless a striking change.

For the Prime Minister, it is not

so much a change of direction as a slippage into neutral. The policy-making engine is idling.

In a governmental system now

well-tuned to the smallest signals

from Downing Street, Mrs Thatcher's indifference to Europe still creates the administrative equivalent of planning blight in Whitehall. When there is no enthusiasm at the top, it is hard for ministers or departments to create strategies for long-term goals in Europe, such as placing more Britons in the European Commission at the lower, policy-creating levels.

Into this muddle came the prospect of the reunification of Germany. In public, Mrs Thatcher has confined herself to accepting the grudging, identical wording of the Nato and EC communiqués, and to hoping that reunification is 10 or 15 years away. In private, she is expressing a vehement antipathy to reunification.

This antipathy makes the Government's dilemma over framing a European policy still harder. Our European partners, led by France, take the view that

a reunified Germany is best contained within a more closely-knit Western Europe. Day by day, it is becoming clearer that this amounts to no more than moral pressure; the speed of probable reunification will outrun anything that the EC can possibly construct. Even Willy Brandt, the former West German chancellor, remarked the other day that there is no reason why reunification must proceed hand in hand with the integration of Europe.

The residual treaty rights in Germany held by the four occupying powers (the US, Britain, France and the Soviet Union) will scarcely affect the course of reunification. The agreements achieved by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) may have fixed national borders, but they also recognize the right of self-determination. Over the past 40 years, the powers of the western alliance have frequently put their names to documents

Presidents do not cast votes, but of course they are not immune from assessment. George Bush was recently redefined by a conservative think-tank as Mr D.C.B.B. On the same range of issues, Vice-President Dan Quayle was a more attractive Mr A.A.A.A.

Any number of tricks can be played with these political numbers as, for instance, when annual scores are added together to show alleged trends.

Why are Americans so keen on the numbers game? Some commentators claim that it is precisely because it is a game. Just as televised American football is made up of "15-second bytes of action followed by 50-minute bouts of statistics", so politics, it is said, fits the same yearning to make order out of chaos.

Other analysts point to the way US policy in Vietnam was destroyed by the Defence Department's preference for counting bombs to conducting strategy; to automobile companies that are happier counting new resources than managing their workers more imaginatively; even to *Washington Post* journalists who watch for the weekly charts of how often their names have appeared on the front page.

The historian Daniel Boorstin once described 19th-century America as made up of "statistical communities". The creation of such a large democracy, he said, encouraged the use of numbers as abstract tools for decision-makers. The idea of the statistically average man helped bring about everything from the spread of life insurance to the mass production of standardised clothes.

But the statistical basis for evaluating Representative Herger and his colleagues would not have impressed the politicians of a century ago. Then, a "machine politician" was a metaphor, not a reality. In those days, the big figures kept the little figures in their place.

rejecting political reform. The last meeting of the Vietnamese Communist Party's central committee, in August, firmly turned its back on any move towards political pluralism or diminution of the party's monopoly of power.

At first glance, the prospects for dramatic political change in any of the East Asian communist states, Mongolia excepted, look remote, but the same might have been said of East Germany or Romania a few months ago. The party in all three countries now fears the domino effect. In each, the death of a key leader could trigger change.

In China, Deng Xiaoping and Yang Shangkun are in their eighties, while Kim Il Sung in North Korea and Nguyen Van Linh in Vietnam are both well into their seventies. Linh and Deng are known to be in poor health. The death of one of these leaders is likely to spark a power struggle leading to major concessions to the presently silenced demands for change.

The author is senior commentator of the BBC Far Eastern Service.

George Brock sees the German issue as a spur to decision

# Thatcher's Euro paralysis

In a governmental system now well-tuned to the smallest signals from Downing Street, Mrs Thatcher's indifference to Europe still creates the administrative equivalent of planning blight in Whitehall. When there is no enthusiasm at the top, it is hard for ministers or departments to create strategies for long-term goals in Europe, such as placing more Britons in the European Commission at the lower, policy-creating levels.

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Peter Stothard analyses the American research that puts numbers to the names

## From politician to public figure

Washington

Come in, Mr Congressman, your number is up. This is the time of year when every Washington feud becomes a number and each political opinion is expressed as a percentage.

The lobbyists of the US capital - all 5,679 of them - are preparing for the new legislative session by counting up the voting scorecards of the last. The results will reduce even the most rounded Renaissance man to a series of digits: a 90 per cent conservative, a 70 per cent liberal, a Green zero, a 40 per cent friend of American gays.

This is mid-term election year, when every member of the House of Representatives, a third of the Senate, and 36 state governors face the voters. The new season's political numbers will be used by campaigners and fund-raisers to protect their friends and to identify their enemies. With old electoral verities such as anti-communism on the way out, and no major new movements taking their place, the computer printouts are crucial. For single-issue lobbyists, each armed with a report card on every lawmaker, this is the open season.

The first number, 12, is Herger's rating by Americans for Democratic Action, doyen of the counting groups, which has been dishing dirt about the right since the days of Joseph McCarthy. The second number, 100, is his flawless percentage score from the US Chamber of Commerce. When it comes to befriending big business, Herger scores like Nadia Comaneci. He also rates a perfect 100 from the American Conservative Union, promoters of "traditional moral values and a strong national defence".

Republican Senator Pete Wilson, who is attempting to win

grudge of the AFL-CIO, the main US lobbyists for organized labour. Last year Herger was given 17 per cent by the American Civil Liberties Union, 14 per cent by the Consumer Federation, and 63 per cent by the National Taxpayers' Union. Environmental and pensioners' groups awarded him the "big zeros".

The resulting strings of numbers - and this is just one statistical profile - will soon be updated and crunched together to see if Representative 12.100.13.100.63.17.14.0.0 is a suitable target for ousting.

Wally Herger has the right code for the conservative sterias of Sacramento and is probably safe enough. He is like a tame British backbencher, a class whose blind loyalty to the whips has prevented analysis like this spreading to Westminster. He has angered few people except those he need not fear.

For others, the 100s and the zeros are more of a problem. The Ohio Democratic senator Howard Metzenbaum is proud of his liberal voting record, but has protested about the perfect 100 given to him by the ADA. Like many liberal Democrats, he is a good deal to the left of his constituents, but he would prefer to keep this quiet at home.

The politicians with best reason to fear the numbers game are newcomers to national politics. Those who have not yet made themselves invulnerable by means of massive campaign war-chests must aim to stay off the hit-list of any active lobby.

For example, the League of Conservation Voters, an environmental group, is likely to provide cash for a candidate about whom it knows virtually nothing if he or she is standing against one of the group's "bad apples". So will the so-called pro-choice organizations which are carving up the nation over the issue of abortion. American elections are decisively swayed by the power of

money. Even the most powerful lobby groups have to be careful not to waste resources. And so keeping one's numerical codes out of an enemy's target range is a good way to stay in power.

Because the numbers ignore all political activities apart from voting, a congressman who works hard on a legislative measure and misses a few voting opportunities can find himself easily miscoded. It is a dangerous trap.

close ranks with East Germany and Romania. Within a week of the events in Tiananmen Square, the Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen, was in East Berlin to thank Erich Honecker for East Germany's "internationalist stance in supporting the crushing of the counter-revolutionary rebellion". At the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the Chinese People's Republic in October, the most senior foreign guest was the hapless Egon Krenz: eloquent testimony to the international isolation that Peking's hardline leaders have brought on their country.

The overthrow of the Ceausescu regime in Romania was an even more humiliating experience for China's leaders, coming as it did only weeks after the country's internal security supremo, Qiao Shi, had visited Bucharest to align China with Eastern Europe's only remaining hardline regime. The Chinese media, unable to explain the loss of old comrades such as Honecker and Ceausescu, has scarcely commented on events in Eastern Europe.

For Vietnam and North Korea, the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe is even more threatening. These states are highly vulnerable economically and politically, if only because of their dependence on the Soviet Union. There are already indications that Moscow - their major creditor, economic partner and military supplier - is reducing its economic assistance to both countries. Moreover, while North Korea is not so desperately poor as Vietnam, the Soviet Union's growing ties with South Korea threaten in the long run to undermine the North, where the regime, like those in Eastern Europe, came to power on the back of the Soviet army at the end of the Second World War.

Vietnam, like China, has tried to ignore one of Marxism's basic precepts, the link between the economic and political systems, by continuing to accept economic reform while steadfastly

## Hardliners living in fear of the domino effect

Michael Williams reports on pressures for Communist reform in Asia

Army. On the same day in Poland, the people voted in the first democratic election to be held in a communist country. The symmetry of the two events made clear the gap that had appeared between East European reformism and the naked authoritarianism of the East Asian communist regimes.

Contemplating the parting of the ways between East European and East Asian communism, it is too easy to see a triumph of European democratic ideals over Asian despotism. The powerful example of neighbouring Western Europe, dissident movements and, in some cases, democratic traditions pre-dating the Second World War have all been important in Eastern Europe; but above all it was Mr Gorbachev's dissolution of the Soviet hegemony over Eastern Europe that led to the sudden collapse of communist regimes that had been in place for four decades.

There is little doubt that June 4, 1989, will long be regarded as a landmark in the history of communism. On the streets of Peking, China's infant democracy movement was drowned in blood by the People's Liberation Army. On the same day in Poland, the people voted in the first democratic election to be held in a communist country. The symmetry of the two events made clear the gap that had appeared between East European reformism and the naked authoritarianism of the East Asian communist regimes.

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After the bloody suppression of the democracy movement last summer, China's leaders tried to

close ranks with East Germany and Romania. Within a week of the events in Tiananmen Square, the Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen, was in East Berlin to thank Erich Honecker for East Germany's "internationalist stance in supporting the crushing of the counter-revolutionary rebellion". At the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the Chinese People's Republic in October, the most senior foreign guest was the hapless Egon Krenz: eloquent testimony to the international isolation that Peking's hardline leaders have brought on their country.

The overthrow of the Ceausescu regime in Romania was an even more humiliating experience for China's leaders, coming as it did only weeks after the country's internal security supremo, Qiao Shi, had visited Bucharest to align China with Eastern Europe's only remaining hardline regime. The Chinese media, unable to explain the loss of old comrades such as Honecker and Ceausescu, has scarcely commented on events in Eastern Europe.

For Vietnam and North Korea, the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe is even more threatening. These states are highly vulnerable economically and politically, if only because of their dependence on the Soviet Union. There are already indications that Moscow - their major creditor, economic partner and military supplier - is reducing its economic assistance to both countries. Moreover, while North Korea is not so desperately poor as Vietnam, the Soviet Union's growing ties with South Korea threaten in the long run to undermine the North, where the regime, like those in Eastern Europe, came to power on the back of the Soviet army at the end of the Second World War.

Vietnam, like China, has tried to ignore one of Marxism's basic precepts, the link between the economic and political systems, by continuing to accept economic reform while steadfastly

rejecting political reform. The last meeting of the Vietnamese Communist Party's central committee, in August, firmly turned its back on any move towards political pluralism or diminution of the party's monopoly of power.

At first glance, the prospects for dramatic political change in any of the East Asian communist states, Mongolia excepted, look remote, but the same might have been said of East Germany or Romania a few months ago. The party in all three countries now fears the domino effect. In each, the death of a key leader could trigger change.

In China, Deng Xiaoping and Yang Shangkun are in their eighties, while Kim Il Sung in North Korea and Nguyen Van Linh in Vietnam are both well into their seventies. Linh and Deng are known to be in poor health. The death of one of these leaders is likely to spark a power struggle leading to major concessions to the presently silenced demands for change.

The author is senior commentator of the BBC Far Eastern Service.

lectures.



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## EUROPEAN SHADES OF BLUE

Mrs Thatcher will today have an encounter with the Conservative Party's Euro-MPs. It is not too soon. There is much at issue between them but the heart of the matter is this — to

the Euro-Tories belong to the as Mrs Thatcher and the Conservative MPs at Westminster? If British sovereignty and national accountability are the criteria, it too often seems that the answer is hardly at all.

That is not a covert way of suggesting that the Euro-MPs should conform to all of Mrs Thatcher's views on a common currency, a central bank, and political integration. After all, not all Westminster MPs agree with her on all these matters. But it is to say that the Euro-Tories standing for the European Parliament have tended to be of a committed European persuasion. They are candidates lured not by real power (there has been none) but by an almost mystical vision of a united Europe — indifferent to ways and means and disinclined to contemplate the dangerous consequences that could flow from a popular feeling that the national interest was being disregarded.

The Conservative Party has few genuine Euro-fanatics, but since the days of Mr Heath, Conservative Party has tended to be of a committed European persuasion. They are candidates lured not by real power (there has been none) but by an almost mystical vision of a united Europe — indifferent to ways and means and disinclined to contemplate the dangerous consequences that could flow from a popular feeling that the national interest was being disregarded.

Some have been people who have failed to get Tory seats at home; others have risen to prominence as representatives of particular interests or in the European movement. None is constrained by the kind of political realities which operate on a Westminster MP — the need to sustain a government in office while bringing influence to bear on its acts and legislation and heeding the views of constituents. (How many electors know their MEP's name?) The position of Tory MEPs has always been more freestanding than that of Labour MEPs. Labour early on got the habit of sending to Brussels those who reflected the party's (then) anti-Europeanism.

That is clearly not the consensus of the Strasbourg MEPs. They have been consistently sceptical of the critique to which the Prime Minister has subjected the political implications of a European single currency and central bank. They dislike the Government's resistance to the so-called social charter. They do not appear to see dangers in the kind of *de facto* political integration which would transfer sovereignty from the Westminster Parliament to Europe.

Why is there such a marked gap? Some responsibility no doubt rests with the Prime Minister herself; she could have taken more trouble to persuade them to a different outlook sooner. Instead, she has tended to hope that the party's supporters actually want.

## REALIGNMENT IN SEOUL

The merger between President Roh Tae Woo's Democratic Justice Party and the two smaller of South Korea's three opposition parties begins a new phase in the country's transition from dictatorship to democracy. Because the new Democratic Liberal Party will have a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly, where the Government has been in a minority since the 1988 elections, the political stakes — and the ruling party's policies — should now become clearer.

That would be a gain. Volatile shifts in political allegiances have plagued South Korean politics for the past three years; concentration on tactical manoeuvring within and between all four parties has delayed efforts to work out coherent political platforms. If the new party uses its majority to change from the existing presidential system to a form of cabinet government, as it has promised, democracy could be strengthened by becoming less dependent on the personality of the President.

The deal has, for all that, a distinctly undemocratic aura to it. South Korean politics since 1987 has been based on a delicate balancing act, in which the strength of the three opposition parties in the National Assembly has mitigated popular distrust of the Democratic Justice Party's links with the dictatorial past. Despite the divided state of the political opposition, in 1988 South Koreans gave them a combined majority in the National Assembly, a convincing display of their determination to keep the ruling party in check.

The compact between President Roh, Mr Kim Young Sam and the leader of the smallest, conservative party of Mr Kim Jong Pil, in effect annuls the electors' verdict. Its attraction for the two opposition leaders was that it

## DOCTOR MENEM'S PRESCRIPTION

"Surgery without anaesthetic" is what President Carlos Menem prescribed for the public sector of Argentina's sick economy when he came to power last summer. Three finance ministers (one died) and four different economic programmes have been applied to the task within six months. The third chairman of the Central Bank resigned this week after only 30 days in the hot seat — six days longer than his predecessor lasted. But the knife so far wielded by Señor Menem and his band of latter-day Peronists in Buenos Aires has never looked sharp enough.

On triumphantly entering office last July, for instance, the Menem Administration raised prices charged to consumers by state industries. The aim was to cut the budget deficit and force inflation down to zero by December. Inflation did indeed start coming down — to around 6.5 per cent (a month) by November, but while government revenue has been raised, too little was done to reduce public spending. So the budget deficit remained, with more money being printed to fill the Austral gap. Inflation meanwhile started to climb again, raising last year's total to around 5,000 per cent. Supermarkets kept customers informed over loudspeakers of the latest round of rises as they shopped.

Last year saw the Austral slide from a rate of 14 to the dollar to one of about 2,000 while real incomes collapsed by a frightening 60 per cent. Middle-class Argentines who are fearful for their savings have scurried to exchange their Australis for real live dollars.

Señor Antonio Erman Gonzalez, an old crony of President Menem's who took over as economics minister last month, has tried to impose stringent controls on the Austral in an

effort to raise its rate against the dollar. At the same time he replaced the seven-day savings deposits which people had been buying as a further hedge against inflation with 10-year dollar bonds.

He has had some success. The public debt has started to come down and so has the rate of inflation. The dollar value of the Austral has improved. But private debt, notably that owned by private industry to the banks, remains worrying. It was partly his failure to find a solution to this problem that led to the latest bank chairman's resignation. The truth is that despite the Government's professed intentions it has not yet approached the underlying cause of the national malaise. Corruption in the public sector is still rife and so is overmanning in state industries. The huge state-owned gas, electricity, and oil companies whose annual losses have run into hundreds of millions of dollars are to be merged — and are expected to be privatized in due course.

The pace of this shift from public ownership remains slow, however, despite Señor Menem's commitment to the task. The indications are that the Government remains a hostage to the big unions within the Peronist movement. Their opposition to redundancies is tying Señor Menem's hands. When a large number of railway workers recently lost their jobs, they were simply transferred to the national tax department — which had not been conspicuously under-staffed.

President Menem said at the outset that it was his objective to make the Argentine economy "get up and walk" — a remark which evoked comparisons with Lazarus. A robust belief in the possibility of economic miracles may not in itself be enough.

## Search for stability in Europe

From Sir John Killick

Sir, The debate about President Gorbachov and the future of Europe in your articles and letters is long overdue and will I hope continue. So far it has been longer on analysis than on specific proposals for the future. I find myself in substantial agreement with "Z" (article, January 11) and Sir Reginald Hibbert (letter, January 15) as regards Gorbachov and with Lords Callaghan (article, January 5) and Weidenfeld (article, January 19) on Germany.

But what can in practical terms be done to establish a security system that will calm the fears of the Soviet Union and Germany's neighbours, protect the sovereignty of a united democratic Germany, and safeguard the interests of Western Europe? The prospect of imminent hanging clarifies the collective European mind wonderfully!

To try to set up "something new and different" in the present climate risks encouraging those in the US who are keen to withdraw from Europe. Would the Administration not have great difficulty in getting any "new" arrangement approved by the Congress? On the other hand, US participation in CSCE is of long standing and fully accepted.

Secondly, the CSCE provides a ready-made home for those of the Soviet republics who are able to exercise their right to secede. They would, of course, have to accept the Helsinki Final Act — most importantly its provision for the peaceful settlement of disputes and the inviolability of frontiers — but they would immediately be members of the European family while waiting for membership of the EC or EFTA or whatever.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN KILLICK,  
Challone's Cottage,  
2 Birchwood Avenue,  
Southborough Kent.

January 21.

From Mrs Inga Haag

Sir, I live in various Balkan countries at different periods and I had many opportunities to learn about their minority and across-the-border problems. I doubt whether the vision of totally independent East European countries — as envisaged by Sir Reginald Hibbert — is such an attractive outlook.

Even less than most other nations these countries did not implement policies inspired by "Love thy neighbour" guidelines;

I believe that an evolutionary approach is called for, adapting and building on existing machinery, and that the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) — including all the European states (save Albania, which can join at any time) and the US and Canada — fills the bill.

The apparent agreement to convene the conference in plenary session this year is a welcome step in the right direction. Why not keep the conference in permanent session at permanent representative level in, say, Berlin, with an agenda covering the whole field of the Helsinki Final Act?

All kinds of different groupings could be brought to bear, depending on the issue under discussion — the EC, EFTA, the European neutrals, Comecon (assuming it survives in some revised form), the Eastern Europeans, and even ad hoc combinations across party lines, so to speak.

Above all, in the field of

## A piece of history

From Mrs Pat O'Brien

Sir, I also have a tiny teak cask from HMS Iron Duke, Jellicoe's flagship in the Battle of Jutland (letter, January 20). My father, the late Bandmaster John Newton, Royal Marine band, was in that battle, manning the guns as a boy on HMS Agincourt. He said the noise of the guns nearly deafened him. He joined the Agincourt on December 19, 1914, and helped to coal-up the ship.

On receipt of a pipe rack made from the Iron Duke for his birthday in 1976 he wrote to me: I was on the Agincourt in that battle and we did rather well. Our gunnery commander gave the Germans something to think about because we had seven turrets, that's 14 12-in. guns, and when we hit them we pushed them right out of line, besides damaging them. We had a couple of German cruisers coming towards us. Commander Gibbons gave the order to fire. After we fired he reported the object shifted, which meant they had been sunk. Your Dad at the time was only 16 years old.

Yours sincerely,  
PAT O'BRIEN,  
78 Kingmead Road,  
Tulse Hill, SW2.

## Case of PC Judd

From Commander John Taylor

Sir, Until I read his article ("Justice under a blue cloud", January 12) I had admired Bernard Levin as a proponent of the principles of liberty and justice of the individual. Perhaps he is, but just makes an exception for police.

The presumption of innocence is as much a part of the bedrock of our criminal justice system as is the higher standard of proof, i.e., "beyond reasonable doubt". Not for PC David Judd though, according to Mr Levin. For him it would seem that a judgment in a civil action based on the lower standard of proof is enough to condemn him, destroy his career and expose him to public calumny. Not is this condemnation of PC Judd's conduct the action and decisions would have then been made on the question of criminal and disciplinary action against PC Judd.

In the event the action was defended and lost. An appeal is pending against the quantum of damages. Subsequent to the action, Mr Taylor has made available, for the first time, his evidence about PC Judd's conduct. A new investigation, headed by a senior officer from Thames Valley, will review all the evidence, leaving no stone unturned.

The investigation is being supervised by the Police Complaints Authority and decisions will be made by the authority and by the Director of Public Prosecutions on whether or not the evidence merits disciplinary or criminal prosecutions against PC Judd.

As with every other case the question of the officer's suspension is continually reviewed during the course of the enquiry. If and when there is evidence to support either a criminal or disciplinary charge then a decision will be taken.

Any other policy could only be

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Public attitudes to homosexuality

From Mr R. A. Baker

Sir, Regarding the matter of the Scottish judges (reports, January 18, 19; leading article, January 19) the scandal is not that one or more may be homosexual, but is the implicit assumption that a homosexual judge, if blackmailed, would act dishonourably.

It is about time that we in this country actively defended the right of every man and woman, be they heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual, freely to be what they are and to express what they are, provided that they do nothing outside the law. And the law should be the same for all.

Unfortunately, even the Church has undermined such a growth of understanding and freedom as a consequence of its lack of charity toward gay clergy.

We can but hope that at some time in the not too distant future the day will dawn when we shall perceive the variations in man's sexuality as further evidence of the prodigal variety in God's creativity.

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. BAKER  
30 White Lodge Close,  
Christchurch Park,  
Sutton, Surrey.

January 20.

From Professor Emeritus G. T. Stewart

Sir, To offer judgement on the condition of homosexuality as Messrs Bernard Levin and Brian Wilson [Labour spokesman on Scottish home affairs] do in your columns on January 22, it is necessary to consider other matters besides the human rights and behaviour, discreet and otherwise, of committed and casual homosexuals. Some of these matters are deeply ingrained in human history and culture, in which it is difficult if not impossible to define differences between homosexual and heterosexual capacities, proclivities and needs, or between men and women; others are biological.

I should now be reluctant to present evidence so frankly in any British court, following last week's display of homophobia by senior judges.

What is needed is a clear Government statement that homosexuality will not be sufficient ground for anyone's exclusion from the judiciary, and then much more openness on the part of judges themselves. Without these, gay people can have little confidence in the system's impartiality.

Because my attackers live quite close by, I had thought to ask you to withhold my name and address. This would have been a mistake. I am, therefore,

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID ASHURST,  
76 Gilbey Road,  
Tooting, SW17.

January 22.

### Prompt diagnosis

From Sir Thomas Scrivenor  
Chairman of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists

Sir, Every year in Britain a significant number of people die unnecessarily, cut short by conditions which a specialist would have been able to identify and treat at a far more promising stage. Aids has been the person then been presented for specialist scrutiny.

At time when a plethora of politician-led additions and changes to the medical system are being unleashed, may I suggest consideration of one that has been tried and tested, and is based on doctors — it is certainly running in some practices in Guernsey. In such a practice each one has postgraduate qualifications in a speciality. Thus patients are far more liable to get prompt specialist scrutiny.

The current system seems at times to produce reluctance to allow unexplained and rumbling symptoms to get specialist analysis till it may be too late. It needs emphasis that the public of this country have been well served by the competence, conscientiousness and good nature of the graduates of British medical schools, in the face of generally under-funded services. We had a couple of German cruisers coming towards us. Commander Gibbons gave the order to fire. After we fired he reported the object shifted, which meant they had been sunk. Your Dad at the time was only 16 years old.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER C. SAUNBY,  
Toller Hales & Collett  
(Solicitors),  
Castilian Chambers,  
2 Castilian Street, Northampton.

January 14.

calculated to deter officers from carrying out their duties impartially without fear or favour.

Had either of those investigations raised doubts about the integrity of PC Judd's conduct the Commissioner would not have defended the action and decisions would have then been made on the question of criminal and disciplinary action against PC Judd.

In the event the action was defended and lost. An appeal is pending against the quantum of damages. Subsequent to the action, Mr Taylor has made available, for the first time, his evidence about PC Judd's conduct. A new investigation, headed by a senior officer from Thames Valley, will review all the evidence, leaving no stone unturned.

The investigation is being supervised by the Police Complaints Authority and decisions will be made by the authority and by the Director of Public Prosecutions on whether or not the evidence merits disciplinary or criminal prosecutions against PC Judd.

As with every other case the question of the officer's suspension is continually reviewed during the course of the enquiry. If and when there is evidence to support either a criminal or disciplinary charge then a decision will be taken.

Any other policy could only be

### Terrier races

From Sir Thomas Scrivenor

Sir, It has been announced (report, January 19) that at this year's dog show "Crufts" is to introduce terrier races "in pursuit of a fury object resembling a rat or a ferret". Miss Banfield, manager of the show, is reported as saying, "as long as they don't bite members of the audience I am not bothered what happens". This should be the least of her worries.

Those with long memories will recall that some years before the war terrier racing was included in one of the variety programmes at a leading London theatre. The course was circular and short, and after a few circuits in pursuit of a fury object the terriers decided that they were wasting their time.

At the start of the next race they watched the lure set off on its first lap, sat down, faced about, interrupted it as it completed the circuit and destroyed it utterly. There were no repeat performances.

A straight course may affect the terriers differently. If Miss Banfield is really worried about the audience she can always put muzzles on the dogs; but they are intelligent animals and if they discover that they can neither destroy the fury object nor bite the spectators their reactions will be unpredictable. They might even stage an unofficial sit-down strike. The television presentation of the show will be worth watching.

Yours faithfully,

T. SCRIVENOR,  
Vine Cottage,  
Minster Lovell,  
Oxfordshire.

January 19.

### June in January?

From Mr J. V. Smith

Sir, I am grateful for the front-page report by your correspondent, Robin Young, on the warmth of this winter (January 22) and for the news that a gardener in Bloomsbury was still gathering outdoor tomatoes.

After celebrating England's victory over Ireland at Wivenhoe, I was aroused by my daughter at 3 a.m. to listen to the sounds of Bloomsbury Square, WC1. Through the background noises from Holborn and Kingsway clearly came the song of the male nightingale.

I would only add that four of us heard it and only two had been celebrating. Mr Young's report reassures me immensely, as most people think we have lost our marbles.

The nightingale will be pleased as well to know about the tomatoes in Bloomsbury.

Yours truly,

JOHN V. SMITH,





## THE ARTS

## Pick your pabulum

## TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

Your preferred chewing-gum of the mind for Tuesday nights may well be Andrea Newman's *A Sense of Guilt* on BBC 1, but opposite it on ITV the *Making News* series is shaping up into something equally appallingly addictive.

This week, the blow-dried television men and women, most of whom appear to have had their brains cabled directly into autocue machines, were dealing with runaway emus on the M4 and incidents on the Romanian-Hungarian border. It was therefore thoughtless of the late President Ceausescu to allow real events to intrude into Keith Dews' script, an intrusion (which the makers, Thames, have indignantly noted) that led to costly reshooting and updating.

Most of the cast, however, still seem to have been locked up with the video of *Broadcast News* for too long. Despite the welcome arrival of Nicola McAliffe as the Kate Adie figure, my own favourite remains the pompous, ageing newscaster (Paul Darrow) with a ruthless and recognizable determination to preserve his small-screen stardom against all-comers.

Dews' script perfectly caught the mix of scoop and showbiz which has always characterized the control room of a television news station. And, like *The Front Page*, it was written with equal amounts of love and loathing for journalists of all kinds.

Over on BBC 1, *The Lane* continues to prove itself one of the toughest and best recent documentary series. It focused last night on a couple of East End street-fighters trying to escape from the through the once traditional route of the boxing ring.

As in the best dramas, one made it and one did not, and the fact that *The Lane* is something real and raw, rather than a multi-stranded script by Newman or Dews, does not make it any less dramatic or compelling. It is independently produced by Westbourne for the BBC and suggests that, like Channel 4, the Corporation is at last learning where to go for the best outside jobs.

Best-selling novelist Thomas Pynchon gives no interviews and is never photographed. Peter Guttridge on the reclusive American

**W**ith a rumoured \$1m advance, and media hounds snapping at his heels, Thomas Pynchon — American literature's Howard Hughes — is back in the best-seller lists. A week before its official February 1 publication in Britain, his fourth novel, *Vineland*, is already number five in the *New York Times* best-sellers chart, a 120,000 print-run all but sold out. In Britain a healthy 12,000 copies have been sold pre-publication.

But then fans of Pynchon, labelled by one critic "the greatest living writer in the English-speaking world", have been waiting 17 years for a new novel to match the brilliance of *V* (1963), *The Crying of Lot 49* (1966) and *Gravity's Rainbow* (1973).

Critics go overboard for *Gravity's Rainbow*, a book so complex it makes *The Name of the Rose* read like pulp fiction. Concerned with the individual caught up in a hidden society whose mechanism is beyond comprehension, it has been called "the greatest work of literature this century", "the greatest American novel ever" and "the most demanding novel ever written". In America it shared the National Book Award, won the Howells Medal and was put forward by judges for the Pulitzer Prize.

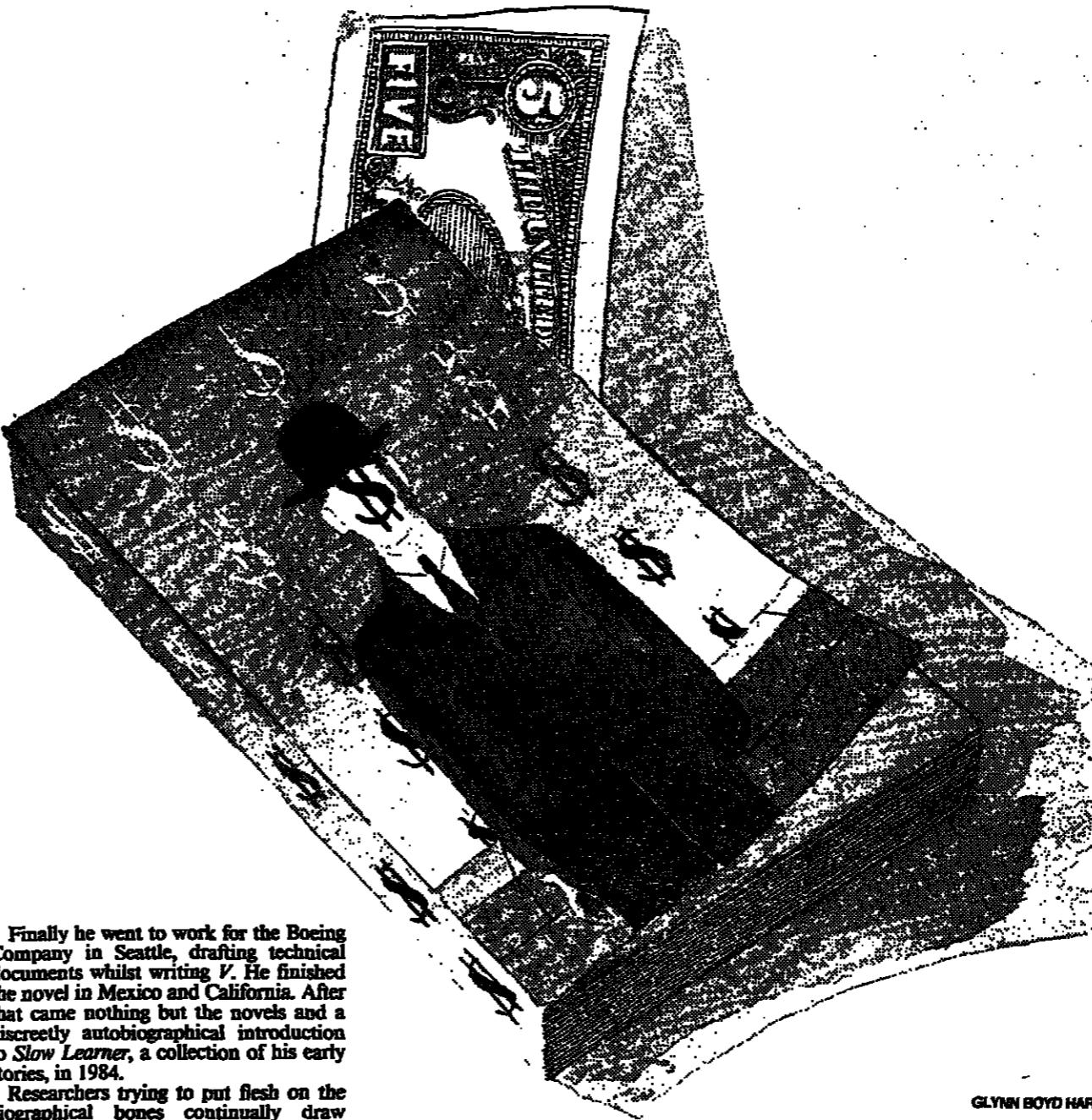
The striking thing about all the acclaim, however, is that Pynchon does not care for it. He turned down the Howells Medal, commenting: "It is a great honour and, being gold, probably a good hedge against inflation. But I don't want it." He sent a stand-up comedian to collect the National Book Award. And for 27 years he has lived a life so secluded that J.D. Salinger is a professional socialite by comparison.

Since 1963, when his first novel, *V* (about the Fushida incident of the 1890s), won the William Faulkner Foundation Award, and established his international reputation, he has never given an interview, never made a public appearance, never revealed his address. There is only one known photograph of him, taken in the Fifties when he was a teenager.

In the late Sixties and Seventies it was very fashionable to talk as Roland Barthes did, of the "death of the author". The New Criticism held that in the critical equation the writer should disappear, leaving text and reader to get on with it. But by the time of *Gravity's Rainbow*, Pynchon was long gone, leaving only the barest biographical information behind.

Thomas Ruggles Pynchon was born in Long Island in 1937, studied engineering, physics and, after a spell in the navy, English at Cornell University. (Nabokov taught him but claimed not to remember him.) When he graduated in 1958, he was invited to teach creative writing at Cornell. He was also considered as a film critic by *Esquire* and himself contemplated life as a disc-jockey.

## And more anon



GLYN BOYD HART

Finally he went to work for the Boeing Company in Seattle, drafting technical documents whilst writing *V*. He finished the novel in Mexico and California. After that came nothing but the novels and a discreetly autobiographical introduction to *Slow Learner*, a collection of his early stories in 1984.

Researchers trying to put flesh on the biographical bones continually draw blanks. His navy records were destroyed in a fire following an explosion at a navy administration building in St Louis. His personal file has mysteriously disappeared from Cornell University.

These days, in the age of biography, New Criticism is old hat. But Pynchon still stays away from the party — especially when it is thrown in his honour. People

who have met him are protective of his privacy. His American editor, Ray Roberts, is not taking any calls about *Vineland* or its author. His American agent, Melanie Jackson, reputedly a close friend, is willing to put questions to him on a journalist's behalf — knowing that Pynchon will not answer them.

Is Pynchon painfully shy, a crank, an eccentric? Not judging by his writing, which is witty and alive. And not according to Tom Maschler, who has been his editor at Jonathan Cape since the early Sixties. Pynchon never met or communicated directly with Maschler for the first 10 years of their professional relationship.

took a call from a phone box in the British Museum. The caller was Pynchon, in London and willing to meet.

Maschler met a tall, gaunt man who agreed to have dinner that evening. "For the next few weeks I saw him every other night," Maschler says. "Then he disappeared and I haven't seen or spoken to him directly since. But there was nothing of the reclusive about him. He was delightful, knowledgeable, very congenial company in the time he was here."

Jonathan Cape is not publishing *Vineland*, Maschler says, because Cape is now owned by Random House, and Pynchon fell out with the American publishers over an incident on that same trip to England.

To find a new publisher, Deborah Rogers, Pynchon's British agent, invited editors from various publishers to read the manuscript in her office, under strict security. The editors bid for the book, accompanying their bids with personal letters. Pynchon mulled them over, and chose Secker and Warburg on the strength of editor Dan Franklin's letter ("I basically wrote a love letter," Franklin admits). Coincidentally, Secker and Warburg also offered the most money.

Pynchon's self-willed anonymity and post-*Gravity's Rainbow* silence have raised expectations that *Vineland* can never hope to fulfil. *Gravity's Rainbow* is a book about which people get obsessive. It attracts votaries as much as readers. There is a thriving critical industry devoted to its interpretation, with, at the last count, 30 books and over 100 academic dissertations offering insight into its mysteries.

*Vineland* does not strive for the complexity of *Gravity's Rainbow*. It is not a book, you feel, that has taken 17 years to write, but it shows Pynchon still has his finger on the pulse of popular American culture. American reviews, overwhelmingly positive, note that it harks back to *The Crying of Lot 49*. It is very funny.

Pynchon could just be the real thing — a writer with integrity who cares only about the work. He has never, for example, gone for the quick buck available from the sale of film rights to his novels. Despite — or, perhaps, because of — his evident pleasure in film, the rights are not for sale.

Perhaps he feels he reveals enough of himself in his fiction. In the introduction to 1984's *Slow Learner*, Pynchon wrote of his early work: "Somewhere I had come up with the notion that one's personal life had nothing to do with fiction; when the truth, as everyone knows, is nearly the direct opposite . . ."

Some of the characters in *Vineland* are people obliged to live in hiding amid outside circumstances force them into the open. The bad news for the critic and the curious is that Pynchon shows no sign of breaking cover. The good news is that another novel is near completion . . .

## Men and women of substance

## THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

## Valued Friends

Hampstead

Back home I come from Hampstead, back to compose a kindly review of Stephen Jeffreys' *Valued Friends* in the quiet of the Fulham evening — and what trips me as I enter my door? A fat circular from an estate agent so keen to "SELL", "LET" or "MANAGE" (his caps) my moulderding abode that he delivers his bum at night. Clearly Jeffreys' play, an award-winner last year, is still topical. What he wryly regards as a big property bubble has not yet gone pop.

Not that his is the dark, didactic play one might expect from a young dramatist writing about zooming house prices in the mid-1980s. Jeffreys is less interested in passing social judgements than in observing the far from predictable reactions of some rumpeted members of the thinking classes to the discovery that their basement tenancy in Earls Court is a valuable asset.

This discovery makes for the kind of comic scene Jeffreys handles deftly. Josie Lawrence, Michael Angelis, Jimi Mulville and Louisa Rix — respectively playing an alternative comedienne, a leftist lecturer, a rock-music journalist and an aspiring businesswoman — perch warily in shabby armchairs while Martin Clunes's cut whizzid bombards them with money jargon from inside his striped shirt. "Equity? You mean you *dead*?" he asks the uncomprehending Lawrence, losing interest when he realizes her theatre of operations is the theatre itself.

## New arrival's flinty determination

## RECITAL

Hilary Finch

## Mary Plazas

Wigmore Hall

"O Ravishing Delight", Thomas Arne's 18th-century ditty, is as good a way as any to make one's mark. Mary Plazas, soprano, 22 years old, used it to herald her London debut recital, presented as part of her Young Concert Artists' Award given by the National Federation of Music Societies with not a little help from Eso.

Arne and, indeed, Purcell ("Bonnie's Song") unleashed a brilliant, flinty soprano with little enough vibrato to cope with music written quite a bit earlier, and with enough flair to be equally at home in Gershwin at the other end of the evening.

Josie Lawrence in *Valued Friends*

## Uneven company is unequal to high aim

Jeremy Kingston

## Life of Galileo

Young Vic Studio

On the evidence of this production by the Rude Mechanicals, Brecht's dramatization of a scientist's predicament is not a great play; but it has greatly interesting things to say and some are greatly said. It is possible to imagine a production where the intellectual savour of the opening scene in the great astronomer's study is carried right through the scenes of his trial and recantation to the speech he delivers in old age, in which he condemns himself for betraying not merely science, but the common man, whose lot he might have improved.

Whether or not Galileo actually felt this second betrayal is irrelevant, as is Brecht's argument that it was his reluctance to be burnt at the stake that began the fatal alliance between science and state, a conflict that led, just before Brecht finally revised the play, to the atom bomb. What matters is that these weighty concerns are given life through a series of telling little scenes and sharp vignettes of character.

Margarete Forsyth's production shows us first an armillary sphere, though here a circle, hand-cranked and persistently squeaking, and it provides an immediate image for the antique, bodily-working Ptolemaic system that stuck the earth at the centre of the rotating heavens.

It was this system that Galileo's discoveries overthrew. But as the scenes proceed, this image comes alarmingly to represent too many features of the production itself, where the cogs of the smaller roles do the best they can but grate against the larger.

The staging makes a fairly bold use of the small stage, placing a gallery above central arches for

cardinals to stand on and stars to be viewed from. In the Venetian scene, trumpets blow and the prouves of two gondolas come hurtling through the arches. This is nice theatre but it is not here that the thrust of the play must be carried.

What is needed is the continual sense that science and the future of mankind stand or fall by the conflicts between the scientist on one side and a conservative, property-owning Church on the other. When so many performers are over-parted, the passion of the play loses itself in the troughs.

Bernard Kay's heavyweight Galileo brings an eager valour to the role and his son disillusion is well done; Reg Eppie's Barberini also looks as if he belongs in his robes. But elsewhere the excitement, like Ptolemy's earth, stands still.



Vigorous: Bernard Kay as Galileo

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## WEDNESDAY PAGE

## Any more room at the top?

**Anthea Gerrie**  
finds out why  
women still can't  
get the best jobs

**T**he unveiling yesterday of a report on "Women at the Top" (or rather, why hardly any of them are) by the Hansard Society Commission was an occasion for brave, optimistic speeches and not a little back-patting. The commission congratulated itself on having had a go at such bastions of chauvinism as Oxbridge, Parliament and the judiciary, hitherto left alone to pursue their ancient discriminatory traditions largely in peace.

Privately, however — and despite the assertion by our new Employment Secretary, Michael Howard, that the Nineties will be a golden age for women — some commission members admit that Britain's most discriminating institutions may be just too entrenched to start courting women without legal coercion to do so. Despite the suffragette triumph of 70 years ago, only 139 women have since taken up seats in the Commons, putting Britain virtually at the bottom of the league table of modern democracies. "You could expect Sweden would be way ahead, but even Spain has more women MPs than us," says Lissane Radice, author of the report and former chair of the 300 Group. Although the group has been successful in getting more women shortlisted for selection, Radice doubts whether Parliament will ever reform sufficiently — by working days instead of nights, for example — to accommodate mothers who will simply not sacrifice their family's needs in order to take up a seat.

"In despair of the horrendous hours that keep MPs of both sexes apart from their families — and which those who live more than 40 miles away from Westminster help perpetuate," she says. "Those who live close enough to sleep at home with their families are much more concerned about change than those with cold little London flats to go to during the



Three exceptions to the rule: (from left) Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher; Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, only woman judge in the Court of Appeal; and Baroness Tessa Blackstone, Master of Birkbeck College

week. These are the chaps who find the House of Commons jolly comfortable — a library, a gym and lots of places to fall asleep."

The institutions most vituperatively attacked in the report are Parliament, academia and the law. Radice quit academic life after 15 years, finding career advancement incompatible with child-raising in the current university environment. "Working part-time, it is impossible to amass the years of service required for promotion — or to publish frequently enough to impress those who do the promoting. I started publishing when my children hit their teens, but until then I was on my knees."

She does not think the commission went one whit too far in

concluding that Oxford and Cambridge deny senior appointments to women because "simply are not good chaps", and that if they refuse to re-evaluate their criteria and procedures, the Equal Opportunities Commission should be set on them. "At Oxbridge, you see networking at its most sinister and dubious; these colleges like to promote their own, and on the whole, their own

judges are women. In my own experience, the red-bricks have not been much better; at Brunel, I was the only woman on the senate for two years, and the men looked on me as something very nasty that had fallen out of the sky from Mars."

Equally scathing about his working environment is Anthony

Lester, QC, who points out in his section on the judiciary that we have but a handful of senior women judges, no female law lords, and only one woman in the Court of Appeal. Britain lags way behind countries such as The Netherlands, where part-time judicial appointments are common and more than a third of the judges are women.

The current criteria for assessing people's suitability for QC appointments are "a nonsense", says Helena Kennedy, a barrister and mother of three. "They look at factors such as your earnings and take no account of the fact that women have different career patterns. In their twenties women lawyers are building up their practices, waiting until their thirties to have babies. That means that when the men reach the age when they're scrabbling for promotions and appointments, women are looking after their families. The quality of women coming to the Bar is striking, and we've broken some barriers. But appointing women runs against the whole ethos of the Bar, which is very clubby, although the older boys don't mind seeing the odd pretty thing knocking around."

"If you have children in your thirties it will inevitably make a difference to your career pattern. You will be confined to practising close to home, and have to ponder cases men with a loving wife at home wouldn't hesitate to accept."

Even Elspeth Howe, the doggedly optimistic chair of the

commission, seems to despair when it comes to battling against the old boys' network and persuading Britain's most ancient institutions to take lessons from the rapid enlightenment in the industrial sector, "which has come about largely due to self-interest; they see that women are such good value and that they're about to need many more of them."

"We need many more top-level women in universities, too, of course; there has been an incredible increase in the numbers of female undergraduates, and it is a good reality that they have so few role models; it all comes back to the clubby nature of that particular world."

She agrees that similar invisible barriers stand between well-qualified

and senior judicial posts. The commission is urging the Lord Chancellor to persuade more women lawyers to apply for jobs as Assistant Recorders, the first rung on the judicial ladder; to make more part-time court appointments; and to monitor women's progress in the judiciary.

As for Westminster itself, Lady Howe asserts caustically that "parliamentary practice reflects its reputation as the best men's club in Britain — it suits male lifestyles very well. And even though in this clubby area of all we have a woman Prime Minister, it will take shock tactics — like a Speaker's Conference — to change the system and make it female-friendly."

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**E**ven as a child Joanna Clinton Davis says she was fascinated by the lives of strangers. So much so that when she went to visit an aunt who had a flat overlooking Lords and a pair of binoculars to train on the cricket, she would use them instead to peep at the neighbours in the next-door block.

"Sheer nosiness, I suppose," she says. "I would be quite obsessed by what was going on inside all the houses we passed in the car, who was dying, who was having a row."

This "rear window" outlook has led to a career of producing films in which people bare their souls for the television cameras. Her latest, "He's Playing Our Song", can be seen tomorrow in BBC2's 40 Minutes series.

In it she explores the life stories of a group of hotel guests through their musical memories. Each "special request" is fleshed out with anecdotes and recollections and, in a couple of cases, a physical trip down memory lane. Thus Roger, the nephew of the late comedian, Reg Dixon, is seen tap-dancing with two other octogenarian uncles in the cobbled streets where Dixon composed "Con-

fidentially". Ann and Howard, who choose a song called "Our Back Yard", revisit the Rotherham home where Ann was raised by a beloved grandmother in the wake of her parents' divorce.

The idea came to Clinton Davis while she was spending a weekend break at the hotel in question, the Evington Park in Stratford, where a pianist in the drawing-room responds to requests from the residents. "There was some attempt to get people to mingle, but only the times people chose seemed to give any insight into what they might really be about.

"You never get to the truth about someone unless you take a side-long approach. The music is a device to tell the stories."

When the idea for her programme had crystallized, she returned to the hotel for help. It would have been cheating, she says, simply to find interesting subjects and plonk them there: she wanted them to have been real guests. Fortunately the pianist,

Barrington Brown, had a sack of cards and thank you notes as a starting point. Clinton Davis pursued about 30 couples. Only a handful actually refused her — a man who thought it would jeopardize his career, a woman who feared she had already gone too far in unburdening herself.

In the end she found Ann and Howard, Roger, Tom — a seemingly curmudgeonly Yorkshire man whose request for "Autumn Leaves" revealed how his wartime flying experiences haunted his adult life — and Joe, an American who brought his daughter over from the States to show her the room where she was conceived 20 years ago. The final player in the quintet is Jeffrey Archer, who turns out to use the Evington Park as a writing

retreat. "That was a complete fluke. You expect to find the Gideons' Bible in a hotel room, not copies of *A Twist in the Tale*."

The film took nearly six months to make. Compared to his earlier work on teenage fruit machine addicts, senseless violence and an in-depth study of a woman fighting cancer, it was meant to be light fluke.

Though Archer remained

reticent — revealing only that he's a romantic with a love of Beatles music — the others allowed her and her crew to intrude on their lives. "It always amazes me that people will do it, because I wouldn't reveal my innermost secrets to anyone," adds Clinton Davis, 34, the daughter of former MP Stanley Clinton Davis, the wife of playwright Stephen Lavall, and the

mother of a two-year-old son. "My own key musical memory is probably something to do with Shostakovich, but I'm not going to say why."

She tends to maintain contact with her subjects and has never, she says, had anyone tell her they felt exploited or lived to regret their exposure. On the contrary, she believes the experience may be therapeutic, both as an exercise in articulating a problem and in breaking a taboo. "Sometimes people have a hidden secret which they think no one else shares, and when it hits the open air they discover it's not as bad as they thought."

"Only a couple of days ago, one of the mothers of a youth who was in the fruit machine ring ran to say how glad she was we'd done it, and how he was off the machines now and had a good job."

Though the secrets spared

in tomorrow's film may not be in the same league as addiction or violence, they none the less touch on some intimate areas. Ann and Howard's story, for instance, is not

Liz Gill

• "He's Playing Our Song" will be shown on BBC2 tomorrow at 9.30pm.

Baring other people's souls: producer Joanna Clinton Davis

## With a song in their hearts

What stories lie behind the tunes  
hotel guests ask the pianist to play? A nosy television producer investigates

retreat. "That was a complete fluke. You expect to find the Gideons' Bible in a hotel room, not copies of *A Twist in the Tale*."

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# Lagerfeld putting Chanel in the pink



Chanel innovations: A short coatdress in pink and white checked tweed (left); an evening dress in soft chiffon (centre); and quilting in rhinestones and pearls in a short evening coatdress.

From Liz Smith, Fashion Editor, Paris

When is a Chanel jacket not a jacket? When it's a dress was the chic answer from Karl Lagerfeld at the Chanel Couture Show in Paris yesterday.

Chanel's classic tweed jacket, cardigan-style or with a narrow shawl collar is today a skinny coatdress. Elongated just a fraction, Lagerfeld's new line for Chanel lifted the Paris hemline up to new heights. The tiny flounce of chiffon that

swings prettily below some of the jackets as a skirt is optional. Lagerfeld, who regularly renews Coco Chanel's favorite classics in her signature navy and white, decrees pink to be the new blue of Chanel this year.

In one of the prettiest collections of the week, pink was the predominant colour in every shade from a pale powdery blush to peach and then on to a hot cyclamen. Even the rose was pinned in place of the traditional Chanel gardenia on the satin bows tied on many of the evening halter dresses. Lagerfeld flirts with

the new short hemlines. Jackets curve and dip. Chiffon pleats flutter and his cunning new circular draped scoop folds of chiffon from a back-slipping hemline to cross at the front and finish as a halter neckline.

Lagerfeld has clearly made the final break with his long-time muse and model, the dark-haired Isabell de la Fressange. The man who once said he would stick by Coco Chanel's preference for dark-haired models only introduced his latest blush-pink collection on a blonde.

## Mandela may act as go-between in talks

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

The South African Government has confirmed that it envisages a key role for Nelson Mandela, the jailed black nationalist leader, as a go-between in talks on constitutional reform with the African National Congress and other anti-apartheid groups.

Mr Kobie Coetze, the Justice Minister, said yesterday that Mandela's release was high on Pretoria's agenda, and the question was no longer whether he should be freed, but when and under what circumstances. Earlier conditions for Mandela's release no longer applied, he said.

Referring to Mandela's own description of his role as a "facilitator", Mr Coetze said that this represented "a giant

step in the negotiating process", and the Government was considering how to accommodate him. He added: "We have new circumstances to deal with... Mr Mandela made it possible himself by his declared standpoint on peaceful participation."

An informed source said one option being considered was to appoint Mandela to a committee charged with paving the way for negotiations, which could also include Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader.

Another option would be a committee of black leaders and representatives of political parties in the tricameral Parliament, rather than government officials.

## Bill allows challenge to press and TV ownership

## Clause could force media choice

By Richard Evans and John Lewis

A Labour government would have to make Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International, publisher of *The Sun*, *News of the World*, and *Today*, as is Times Newspapers, publisher of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

Although the Bill requires national newspaper proprietors to limit their holding in a clause in the Broadcasting Bill now before Parliament.

The Home Office confirmed last night that a subsection in a schedule of the 160-page Bill allows the Home Secretary to make an order radically changing cross-media ownership rules.

Until recently most Labour MPs have assumed News International would not be under threat.

Sky Television, which launched four satellite channels last February, is a subsidiary of News International, whether or not they were based in this country, if they are beaming programmes into the UK.

Mr Robin Corbett, Labour's broadcasting spokesman, said yesterday: "If these powers are on the statute book when we come into power we will certainly use them to get Mr Murdoch to divest himself of either his majority control of News International or Sky."

A spokeswoman for News International said: "There is no secret about this clause."

The Secretary of State has wide discretionary powers embodied in the Bill. We will be interested to see if this sort of open-ended power is limited during the Bill's passage.

"It would obviously be of some concern to us if these powers were used in a way that resulted in a forced sale of existing interests with the subsequent effect on jobs and the freedom, diversity and competition which is the central core of the proposals."

The Home Office said last night the reserve powers were contained in the existing Broadcasting Act and were being transferred to the new legislation.

"There is a general power for the Government to take whatever action it wishes on cross-media ownership by Order." He added: "It would be moving the goalposts at this stage, given that so much money has been spent by Mr Murdoch and people who have bought dishes."

## Political sketch

# A disappointing brush with 'Basil'

Watching a bunch of health ministers fielding Questions yesterday, one was reminded of the staff at Fawley Towers Hotel. Each had his (or her) own style of handling complaints. Each style was distinct.

We started with Opposition complaints to junior minister Virginia Bottomley. These complaints were about the National Health Service and Community Care Bill.

They could have been about Hotel Bill for all the difference it made to Mrs Bottomley. Her approach to all enquiries is the same. She smiles sweetly and changes the subject.

Labour's Eric Marlow (Carlisle) told her that her government couldn't care less about the dying. "I would like to thank the hon member" cooed Mrs B "for giving me the opportunity to congratulate the voluntary hospice movement on its excellent work".

Nicholas Winterbottom (C. Macclesfield) let fly an angry condemnation of her policies. "My hon friend" said Mrs B "soothsaying, as might a nurse wiping a fevered brow - is right and proper to draw attention to these things."

But where was Basil Fawley?

There is no evidence" said Clarke, that this was the case. Indeed, "such GPS would be wrong.... No justification whatsoever". Doubtless they were influenced by the BMA's campaign of "conducting investigations" last summer. Mr Clarke sat down, bursting with good-humoured indignation, as his receptionists took the next Question. Whatever would guests allege next?

Mike Watson might as well

have alleged that he'd entered the double-room he'd booked to find another guest in the bath, as repeat this nonsense.

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It would suit us to say that Richard Holt (C. Loughborough) could play the role. But Mr Fawley has a certain indigo dignity. Subtract the dignity and you have Mr Holt.

Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bassetlaw) had been hunting around. Nobody can forgive him for getting on to *Desert Island Discs*, but the rest of us contain ourselves. Not Holt.

"On a point of order Mr Speaker" he said, rising "the hon Member for Bolsover gets more than his fair share".

Mr Speaker tried to calm him but this only enraged him more. On it went: "I sit here day after day seeing favours being given..."

"Please sit down" pleaded Mr Speaker. Kindly, colleagues all around tugged at his coat-tails - but Holt brushed them violently aside. It was too much. He could take no more.

The outburst shattered yet

this side of being thrown out - the first Tory for decades to achieve that honour. White signed with relief, sketchwriters with disappointment.

## New curbs on UK cattle

Continued from page 1  
serious effect on Britain's cattle breeding industry and will cost British breeders around £10 million.

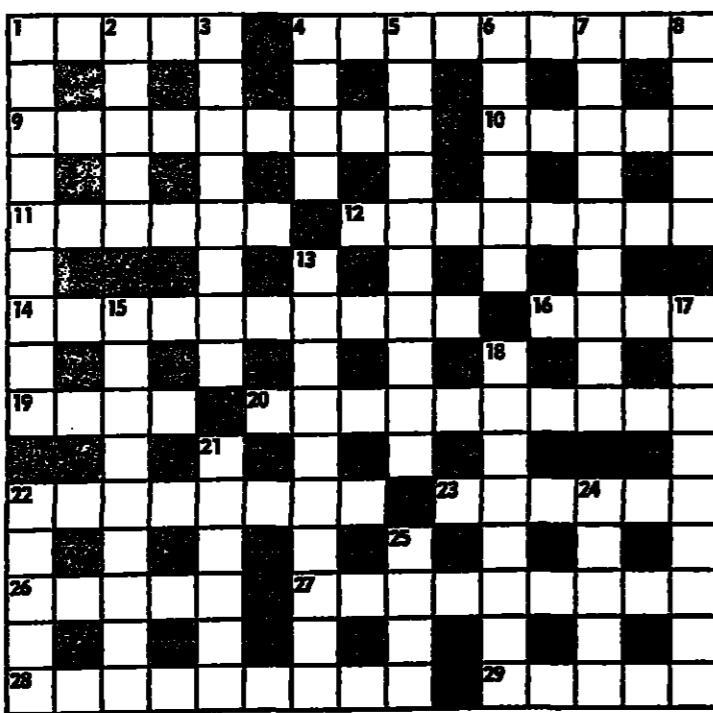
Britain exports 288,000 live cattle to Europe annually, valued at around £50 million, but about 80 per cent of them are veal calves under six months old.

Mr Gummer may, however,

have won a minor tactical victory in his bid to force the West Germans to abolish their restrictions on British beef imports.

After private talks with Mr Gummer, Herr Ignas Kiechle, the West German Agriculture Minister, agreed to review restrictions. But Herr Kiechle remains resolute on Bonn's right to refuse it.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,199



### ACROSS

- 1 Fellow graduates he recognized in Marseille (5).
- 27 Archbishop introduces a politician, expressing praise (9).
- 28 She's a charming woman (9).
- 29 Jewish priests hoped, if unorthodox, for this vestment (5).
- 10 Monotonously repeat some coarse yarn (5).
- 11 In retribution, smear with tar? Not on! (3-3).
- 12 Agent attached to two states is an idle beggar (8).
- 14 Expel bodies of constables stationed in a Norfolk town (10).
- 16 What Cupid drew, it's said, for a dandy (4).
- 19 European record broken by a Polish leader (4).
- 20 Sailor, six-footer, taking girl to a dance (10).
- 22 Neat present for daughter (8).
- 23 Cosmopolitan young woman swallows highball (6).

Solutions to Puzzle No 18,198

DOWNING PENGUIN  
IAN ORUINA  
SAXON BLOODSHOT  
AWOY FEET  
GREIVE GLOSSARY  
RINA SIRE  
EIGHT GUARDED  
EODALI  
DOWNRIGHT CLASS  
KALEEN  
HERALDRY BECKER  
AFUIL MHE  
CHAMPAGNE LIVED  
KRIASV  
STEINER FITTEST

### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

### FASHED

Wearing trousers

b. Clothing

c. A football changing room

### SCVE

a. Opening for a sleeve

b. To eavesdrop

c. The herring gull

### MANILLE

a. Opening for a cuff

b. Section of a Roman cohort

c. Second highest card

### HARN

a. Reeds for thatching

b. Brains

c. To darn cotton

Answers on page 20

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Concise Crossword, page 20

### WEATHER

Most of Britain will be showery. Northern England, Northern Ireland and Scotland could see sleet or snow in many places, particularly in western areas and on hills. However eastern England will be generally bright, with fewer showers. Temperatures will be lower than yesterday and it will feel cold in the blustery showers and winds. Outlook: Rain, with some sleet and snow, staying windy.

### ABROAD

MONDAY: 1. Thunder, d. drizzle, n. fog, sleet; s. snow; f. fair; c. cloud; t. rain.

TUESDAY: 1. Thunder, d. drizzle, n. fog, sleet; s. snow; f. fair; c. cloud; t. rain.

WEDNESDAY: 1. Thunder, d. drizzle, n. fog, sleet; s. snow; f. fair; c. cloud; t. rain.

THURSDAY: 1. Thunder, d. drizzle, n. fog, sleet; s. snow; f. fair; c. cloud; t. rain.

FRIDAY: 1. Thunder, d. drizzle, n. fog, sleet; s. snow; f. fair; c. cloud; t. rain.

SATURDAY: 1. Thunder, d. drizzle, n. fog, sleet; s. snow; f. fair; c. cloud; t. rain.

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WEDNESDAY: 1. Thunder, d. drizzle, n. fog, sleet; s. snow; f. fair; c. cloud; t.

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.6495 (+0.0105)

W German mark 2.7992 (-0.0223)

Exchange index 87.8 (-0.4)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1839.6 (-0.5)

FT-SE 100 2291.1 (-6.0)

USM (Datstream) 156.42 (-0.79)

Market report, page 26

18 insider  
inquiries

Eighteen cases of possible insider dealing are being investigated by the Department of Trade and Industry. This was revealed yesterday by Mr John Redwood, junior trade minister, after a written question from Mr Martin Redmond, the Labour MP.

## Acsis steps up

Acsis, the marketing services group is to step up from the USM to a full listing. Profits doubled to £7.4 million last year while earnings per share climbed 64 per cent to 5.4p. A final of 0.7p makes 1p, up 67 per cent. *Tempus*, page 24

## Courts lower

Courts, the furniture retailer, made pre-tax profits of £3.11 million in the six months to September against £4.3 million. Turnover was £68.9 million, up from £65.1 million and earnings per share fell from 10.5p to 7.95p. The interim stays at 1.83p. *Tempus*, page 24.

## STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2614.19 (+13.74%)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 3737.02 (+121.01)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 2762.45 (-9.20)

Australia: ASX 113.55 (+0.3)

CSE: Tendency 1654.8 (-7.5)

Frankfurt: DAX 1801.50 (+22.22)

Brussels: General 6355.61 (-8.44)

Paris: CAC 5248.61 (-8.7)

Zurich: Ska Gen 608.1 (-3.5)

FT-SE All-Share 1150.91 (-3.07)

FT-SE 500 1253.69 (-4.41)

FT: Gold Mines 319.2 (-2.6)

FT: Fixed interest 91.40 (-0.02)

FT: Govt Secs 51.24 (-0.10)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises:

Midland 371.5p (+12p)

Standard &amp; Chart 567.5p (+23p)

Card Group 531.5p (+11p)

Ferranti 520.5p (+6p)

Liberty 450p (+10p)

Falls:

FAI 120p (-10p)

Rechem 497.5p (-27p)

Security Services 722.5p (-15p)

Siebe 451.5p (-18p)

Standard Beecham 5607.5p (-11p)

Trident House 642.5p (-10p)

J Smith 287.5p (-12p)

Anglo Group 510p (-45p)

SA Breweries 739p (-40p)

Redland 555p (-13p)

Henderson Admin 758p (-15p)

Dovey &amp; Newman 555p (-25p)

Bordair 747.5p (-15p)

Micro Focus 522.5p (-15p)

Closing prices 311.51

Bargains 544.3p

SEAC Volume

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%

3-month interbank: 15.4-15.6%

3-month eligible bills: 14%-14.4%

US: Prime Rate: 10%

Federal Funds: 8.5%

3-month Treasury Bills: 7.6-7.64%

30-year bonds: 9.7-9.71%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ 1.6495

\$ 1.6485\*

€ 2.7992

\$ 2.4868

\$ 2.5072

\$ 2.5052

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Tate &amp; Lyle in £23m tidying-up disposals

Tate & Lyle is selling stakes in two foreign groups for \$37 million (£23 million). They came with Tate's purchase of US-based Staley but unlike Staley, which makes a sweetening agent, they did not fit Tate's core sugars and sweeteners base.

Tate's 25 per cent stake in San Francisco-based Generac, which makes industrial enzymes, is being bought by a joint venture of Eastman Kodak, which already has a 25 per cent holding, and Caltex, the Finnish sugar producer. Tate has varying stakes of up to 75 per cent in a group of companies, of which the main ones are Hendricks and Sommer of West Germany and Stapol of Switzerland. Coates Brothers and its parent Orkem group are buying the stakes.

## German buy for Optical

Optical and Medical International, a technical services company, has bought Peters and Zabrowsky of West Germany for DM14.4 million (£5.1 million) in cash. The purchase was made through Osmatec Holding, its West German offshoot. P&Z is mainly engaged in the design and the stress analysis of components used in the car and aircraft industries. It is expected to show sales for 1989 of DM16 million.

## Bass warning on rates

Bass plc's beer sales rose by 1.5 per cent in the first quarter. Mr Ian Prosser, chairman, told the annual meeting Bass' progress was satisfactory in the current year but gave a warning that if interest rates stayed at present levels "all consumer businesses will be affected".

He said "no decision had been made about how to send the company forward". He said it was possible to split the company in two - brewing and retailing - but "vertical integration was very useful in such a difficult business". The chairman said Bass had looked at splitting its shares to make them cheaper on the Stock Exchange but the complexities of the Holiday Inns purchase among other factors had halted consideration.

## Adsene sees profit tumble

The Adsene local newspaper group saw pre-tax profits more than halved to £619,000 in the six months to December. Advertising revenue fell nearly 10 per cent. Turnover rose 13 per cent to £10.7 million, inclusive of acquisitions. The interim dividend stays at 2.45p eps (5.4p). Adsene quashed rumours of a takeover approach from Emap Publications.

## North of Scotland loss

Poor quoted sector returns hit North of Scotland Investment Trust and caused losses of £9,468 for the interim stage to October, against a £46,000 pre-tax profit. Disappointing investments included a 5 per cent stake in the Caird Group. Mr Andrew Lang, investment manager says the holding has been "materially reduced".

The trust was also let down by a holding in the Richards textiles group. Mr Lang says results for the period also reflect the conservative approach to valuing unquoted investments. These comprise 85 per cent of North of Scotland's portfolio value. He says unquoted oil service companies in the Aberdeen area performed well and so he has every confidence of second-half profits. There is again no interim dividend.

## Evered cuts preference share issue to £25m

By Our City Staff  
Volatility in the bond markets has caused Evered to scale down the preference share issue to acquisitions.

Announcing the £141 million purchases a fortnight ago, Evered envisaged raising up to £30 million from a preference issue, but this has been cut to £25 million.

Mr John Ford, finance director, said that, while the convertible market was very much larger, the normal issue size was only about £25 million as there were only between 20 and 30 buyers.

"Last week was difficult for the whole bond market across the world," he explained.

## WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (£)	Yearly change (£)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (\$US)	Yearly change (\$US)
The World (free)	783.3	-0.1	19.4	0.3	16.5	0.1	8.5
EAFE	149.7	-0.1	19.3	0.2	16.4	0.1	8.5
Europe	1450.8	-0.2	14.0	-0.1	14.8	0.1	3.6
(free)	149.2	-0.2	13.8	-0.2	14.7	0.1	3.4
Nth America	729.0	0.1	34.7	-0.1	24.6	0.3	22.4
(free)	156.6	0.1	35.2	-0.4	24.8	0.3	22.9
Nordic	496.4	-0.1	30.8	0.1	18.7	0.1	18.5
(free)	1530.2	0.0	41.0	-0.2	27.6	0.2	28.1
Pacific	233.4	-0.1	54.8	-0.4	39.2	0.1	40.6
Far East	5287.7	-0.2	4.3	-0.1	10.1	0.0	-0.2
Australia	340.4	-2.6	16.0	-0.5	15.4	-2.4	5.4
Austria	1835.0	-0.6	148.0	-0.1	117.0	-0.4	125.4
Belgium	945.2	-1.0	22.4	-1.4	6.4	-0.8	11.2
Canada	551.3	-0.5	24.9	-0.5	12.1	-0.3	13.5
Denmark	1303.5	0.5	57.9	0.0	35.2	0.7	43.5
Finland	117.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	-11.3	1.3	-22.3
France	1523.9	0.9	27.3	0.7	11.7	1.1	15.7
Germany	755.0	0.2	40.5	-0.3	22.3	0.4	27.6
Hong Kong	903.4	1.1	58.8	0.7	39.0	1.4	44.3
Italy	2115.7	-0.6	10.5	-0.3	0.4	-0.3	0.4
Japan	380.0	0.1	29.7	-0.4	14.5	0.3	17.8
Netherlands	5824.5	-0.2	3.6	0.0	10.0	0.0	-5.9
New Zealand	870.6	0.0	36.6	-0.5	18.5	0.2	23.2
Norway	99.8	-2.7	16.7	-1.9	9.8	-2.5	6.1
Spain	1417.0	-0.1	70.1	-0.2	55.1	0.1	54.6
Sweden	243.4	-0.2	68.1	-0.3	53.3	0.0	52.8
Switzerland	1988.2	-1.4	56.7	-1.0	37.8	-1.2	42.4
UK	216.5	-0.4	9.2	-0.7	-2.7	-0.2	-0.8
USA	234.9	-0.8	49.4	-0.8	38.0	-0.5	35.7
(free)	893.4	0.0	36.3	-0.5	25.1	0.2	23.8
(free)	137.3	0.0	38.5	-0.5	27.1	0.2	25.2
UK	684.7	-0.1	25.4	-0.1	25.4	0.1	13.9
USA	446.0	0.0	31.3	0.2	19.3	0.2	19.3

Source: Merton Stanley Capital International

## Making a will

Up to two-thirds of British people die without making a will, which can be costly for relatives they leave behind.

Dear Newsgazette, please deliver/save me a copy of The Times WEEKDAYS  SATURDAY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

## John D Wood is over its profits rot

John D Wood, the London and country residential estate agency, is starting to look like a share over which the sign could go up "Des Rees Repair work done. Early appointment to view essential. Great potential".

The cracks which last year shattered its gloss and included a second-half loss of £178,000 - to knock 1989's total pre-tax profit down from £1.46 million to £257,000 - have been covered over with first-half profits this year.

For the six months ended October 31, pre-tax profits were £216,000 (excluding an exceptional £224,000 from the sale of a freehold interest in Lymington) on a £2.46 million turnover. In the immediately preceding six months, pre-tax losses were £178,000 on a £2.2 million turnover. In the first half of last year there were profits of £435,000 on a turnover of £2.99 million.

The group hopes to show "an encouraging result at the year end" and senses that property buyers and sellers are beginning to come out of the woodwork. That John Wood was able to turn previous six months losses into a first-half profit when the market was still dull owes much to the knife-wielding the group did on costs. A more genuine improvement in its market would have a dramatic impact. Tight cost control remains the key.

The story is the same for the other divisions. Hotel design works on long lead times and

to woo ex-pat business. If successful, this may translate into valuable commissions.

The estates market will remain flat for a while yet, so not much more than £450,000 pre-tax for the full year should be expected. But interest rate sentiment is the key to where the shares go from here - a year ago they were 10p. Now they are 70p, and the prospective p/e remains a heady 19.4. The rating is looking a long way ahead.

## Acsis Group

After the agonies at Satchi, marketing services shares are hardly the flavour of the month. But even though Acsis Group's rights issue fell victim to the market panic last October, its shares now trade on a mid-teens p/e ratio that Satchi enjoyed in its better days.

Clearly, the market is impressed with the efforts of Mr Darryl Phillips, who is rapidly building the group after a successful career creating one of South Africa's largest advertising and marketing companies.

Mr Phillips steers away from the well-trodden beat favoured by bigger groups in the sector and says proudly that his advertising operations have no national accounts and are far less vulnerable to large-scale economic trends.

Meanwhile, executives are planning a visit to Hong Kong



Wood's joint chairmen: George Pope and Ian Homersham.

the continuity sales operations in small niche markets.

Acsis, like WPP in its early days, grows by acquisition of able management which stays with Acsis on an earn-out basis. For example, five companies were bought in the last quarter of 1989.

Organic growth was 68 per cent last year. Having doubled pre-tax profits to £7.4 million, Acsis is set for £13 million in the current year on BZW forecasts and the historic p/e of 14.4 is set to fall to 11.

With no gearing, thanks to

the rights issue, Acsis is a strong buy for smaller company fans. But if Mr Phillips' past is any guide, Acsis will be a lot bigger before long.

## Pavilion

## Leisure

A sluggish commercial property market has slowed Pavilion Leisure's fast metamorphosis into a pure leisure concern. It has not done much for the shares in this hotels, health clubs and the

atre group. They soared 44p to 177p when news came last April that Mr George Martin was taking over as chief executive.

Yesterday, they were unchanged at just 87p as the group more than doubled its pre-tax profits from £3.9 million to £8.2 million for the year to end-October and raised its total dividend to 4.5p (3p). Earnings per share surged from 5.47p to 12.9p.

But there was a below-the-line debit of £2.2 million relating to merger costs, which meant that retained profits were marginally down at £1.33 million. Pavilion, which paid £67 million for the much larger Parkdale property and leisure group last June, has taken longer than expected with its property disposals.

It was hoped that Pavilion, which sold £28 million worth of property before its October year-end, would have sold the rest by now.

But three properties remain and half of the £24 million more to be raised will not come through until later this year. Current-year profit expectations are about £10 million, putting Pavilion on a prospective earnings multiple of roughly just 6.5 times.

Worth holding for the long-term.

## Courts

Courts, the furniture retailer, is finding business more profitable with many potential customers facing a hike in their mortgage payments.

## Mainmet in rescue talks after losses

By Jeremy Andrews

Mainmet Holdings, a Bradford company which supplies heat measurement meters for local authority housing schemes, is in talks with a possible bidder, as yet unnamed, following the news that it made pre-tax losses of more than £250,000 in the six months to November.

Mainmet also gave a warning that there had been a significant deterioration in its financial position and that it was relying on the continued support of its bankers.

A rescue bid would be at "a nominal value" rather than the 60p at which the ordinary shares were suspended last Friday. The most likely bidder is ISS, the Danish company whose meters Mainmet has supplied since its shares were floated on the US in 1983. Last March, ISS took an 11 per cent stake in

Mainmet by selling it a small business making energy controllers.

Meggit also had an 8 per cent stake at one stage, though this has since been reduced.

The loss expected for the first half is equivalent to all the pre-tax profits, less losses, since it came to the market; given that Mainmet now believes the profit for 1989-90 were overstated by £240,000.

BWD Rensburg, Mainmet's broker, had been forecasting full-year profits of £650,000 before the shares were suspended. The only offsetting factor is a claim for £233,000 for termination of service contracts, which arose from the decision by one of its customers to demolish a holding estate.

However, because of the poor trading results, Mainmet now faces cash flow problems.

## LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Options	Series	Spot	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug

fits rot

# MMC chief sees risk in wider role for Brussels

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The European Commission may face problems over resources and lack of experience when it takes on wider powers to scrutinize the effect on competition of company mergers, the chairman of Britain's competition watchdog said yesterday.

Mr Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), which will set a proportion of bigger mergers involving British companies being dealt with in Brussels from October, said that the problems could mean that decisions on mergers would be slow.

Mr Lipworth also signalled the possibility of a general

investigation of high-leverage "junk bond" bids to establish rules on how much leverage was acceptable.

The reaction to the European Commission's new powers is the strongest yet from the MMC and was made in its review of the past year.

In it, Mr Lipworth says: "My main reservations are whether the European Commission will have the resources and the institutional experience of the types of issue that exist in a hostile takeover to do the job speedily, as well as thoroughly and fairly."

He has made clear before that he would have liked much higher financial thresh-

olds before cases went to Brussels. That, he argued, would have avoided the Commission taking on too many cases too quickly while building up its resources.

Mr Lipworth suggests a specialist unit be set up in the Commission to deal exclusively with merger-vetting.

He said: "The timescale and, very often, the intensity of these cases, as well as their effects, do warrant special treatment."

The European Commission's new powers will be over large, cross-border mergers that have a Europe-wide dimension.

About 40 to 50 mergers a

year are expected to be dealt with by Brussels, of which 10 to 15 would have a British element.

Under the current system, only a few of these would be referred to the Monopolies Commission, since only about 2 to 3 per cent of notified mergers are normally referred for investigation.

Mr Lipworth also suggested that if the effects of a merger were predominantly to be felt in one member country, the Commission should consider using the services of that nation's competition body for part of the investigation to make more efficient use of resources.

## Pavilion to seek £20m expansion

By Melinda Wittstock

Pavilion Leisure, Mr George Martin's hotel, health club and theatre group presently shedding properties acquired with last June's £67 million acquisition of Parkdale, plans to spend £20 million more this year on acquisitions to buoy its leisure interests.

Mr Martin said Pavilion is to buy 10 to 12 private health clubs in the current year and would spend £7 million adding extensions and leisure facilities to its growing number of country hotels, which include the Select Country Hotels.

Pavilion, which more than doubled its pre-tax profits from £3.9 million to £8.22 million

last year, also said it plans to bid for a large number of local authority leisure facilities, 2,600 of which come up for tender this year.

Mr Martin said Pavilion will double the number of its hotel rooms from 500, representing only 0.1 per cent of the British market, in the next 12 months.

Pavilion, which raised £28 million from property disposals before its October year-end, expects to raise £24 million more this year, which will be reinvested through capital expenditure and acquisitions. Gearing at the year end was 55 per cent which will be maintained.

Earnings per share rose from 5.47p to 12.9p, and the total dividend is 4.5p (3p).

## Aukett builds bridges



Looking east: Michael Aukett, outside an Aukett-designed building in Slough, Berkshire

By Our City Staff

Aukett Associates, the integrated architectural and building design group, is hoping to win commissions in central and eastern Europe and to take advantage of the economic and social changes taking place.

Mr Michael Aukett, chief executive, says the group has been helped by the DTI and Foreign Office with contacts, and has earmarked Hungary for potential developments.

Aukett hopes to be involved in hotel/retail complexes for western multi-nationals, and group executives will shortly visit Prague and possibly Poland. It is also aiming to widen its European connections after the opening of the first of its European offices in Geneva last October.

Aukett, whose shares were placed at 95p last February, reports a pre-tax profit of £2.3 million compared with a *pro forma* £1.73 million for the year ended September 30 on

turnover of £11.5 million (£9.12 million). The value of work done in the year totalled £13 million (£9.3 million).

A final dividend of 2.75p, payable March 8, makes 4p for the year compared with a single payment of 3p previously.

The directors said there had been an encouraging start to the current financial year, although the year would be challenging.

The shares traded at 121p, unchanged, yesterday.

## Wiggins Group makes loss of £1.33m

By Our City Staff

Wiggins Group, the property developer and housebuilder with significant exposure to the London Docklands, has fallen into a pre-tax loss of £1.33 million for the six months to end-September after paying an interest bill of £1.54 million.

The company blames the loss on high interest rates and stronger seasonal demand for its tax-based Docklands investment properties in the second half. The result was foreshadowed with its December

interim warning that profits would be "substantially below" last year's interim £3.8 million.

Shareholders, who received a 3p interim dividend last year, will not be given a payout this year, given "uncertainty about the outcome for the full year."

Wiggins, which normally reports its interim in November, has also reported a loss per share of 8.5p against earnings per share of 19.1p. But unlike the year before, the results do not include a

contribution from the motor division, which was sold last year for £7.5 million to Williams Holdings.

Mr Stephen Haykhan, the chairman and chief executive, said interest in properties was still high, but would-be buyers were struggling to sell their existing properties.

Wiggins, which is developing a 347-room four-star hotel in London's Enterprise Zone beside Olympia & York's Canary Wharf development, hopes the site will be sold this

financial year for not less than the desired £55 million. "There is a buyer in the wings," he said.

Mr Haykhan said the group's South Quay business apartments development continues to attract prospective buyers. Wiggins, which earlier sold 120 apartments, has exchanged contracts on 30 more units having a book value of £9 million. A further 24 million of reservations have been taken. It plans to develop 215 more units.

## Antique load woe

Terry "Twigg" Buckland, one of the biggest men in the stock market — he claims to stand 6ft 7ins in his bare feet — was inundated with telephone calls from market-makers yesterday afternoon, urging him to buy shares in Courts (Furnishers), and Lowndes Queensway. Given his job as the dealing director for Phillips & Drew Fund Management, the calls in themselves were not unusual, but the choice of stocks quite clearly was.

Their explanation, I can reveal, lies in an incident which took place in the most prestigious in-house dining room at Warburg Securities, where Buckland had lunched but a few hours earlier. Clearly ill at ease among the firm's impressive array of antique furniture, Buckland, who assures me that he weighs in at just 162 stones, eventually relaxed, leaned back and promptly broke a highly valuable Louis XV chair. "To make matters worse," he says, "the last time I lunched there, about a year ago, exactly the same thing happened. But the most embarrassing moment was when the butler suddenly appeared, just as I was trying to intend it, to disdainfully suggest that he remove it."

## Beneluxury

There really is no such thing as a free lunch. Baron Vae, who is chairman of the Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in the UK, has been sending out invitations to a St Valentine's Day lunch,

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

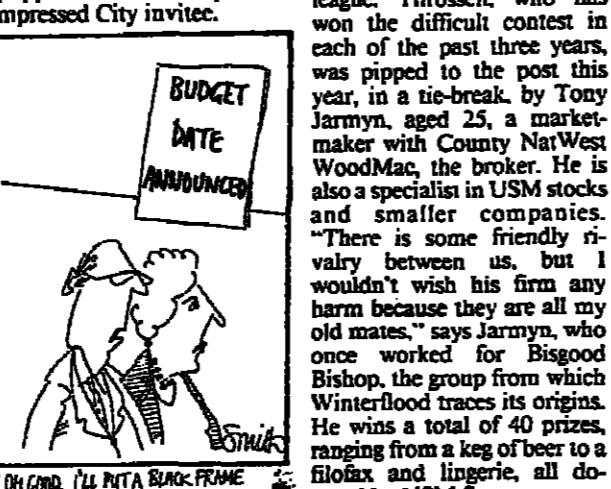
### Go-karting getaway

Several of the 30 or so smartly-dressed young market-makers who were invited to a closed bus station in Hackney on Monday by First Equity, the inter-dealer broker, to race around in go-karts, eventually went home in a considerable state of disarray after a thoroughly enjoyable evening. For, having changed

### Friend and foe

Ian Throssell, a specialist Unlisted Securities Market dealer at Winterflood Securities, has had his hat trick of wins in the *USM Magazine's* annual quiz interrupted by Tony Jarman, aged 25, a market-maker with County NatWest WoodMac, the broker. He is also a specialist in USM stocks and smaller companies.

"There is some friendly rivalry between us, but I wouldn't wish his firm any harm because they are all my old mates," says Jarman, who once worked for Biggosh Bishop, the group from which Winterflood traces its origins. He wins a total of 40 prizes, ranging from a keg of beer to a filofax and lingerie, all do-



## New brand for Buchan

Mr Buchan, one of the key figures in Hill Samuel's smaller companies team, is at last following in the footsteps of his literary ancestors — his first efforts have been published this week. For Buchan, whose grandfather, John Buchan, wrote *The 39 Steps*, has written a chapter on "the impact of brand valuations on stock market ratings" in *Brand Valuation: A True and Fair View* — just published by Interbrand, the organization which pioneered the methodology for such valuations.

"It's very difficult to draw a conclusion," he said of his chosen subject matter. "But it is clear that the market is not prepared to give full credit to companies for the value of their brands — not even in a takeover situation." He admits that the fact he has never put pen to paper before has categorized him as one of the black sheep of his family. He said: "Of my eight brothers and sisters, five of them write professionally. My brother Jamie is the *Financial Times* correspondent in New York." And Buchan admits that he too has greater literary aspirations than Interbrand's book. "I have promised my family that when I do eventually write a novel, it will be the honest, raciest thing they have ever read."

Carol Leonard

## Clowes is facing 29 new charges

Mr Peter Clowes, former head of the Barlow Clowes Fund Management Company, faced 29 new charges yesterday when he appeared in court in connection with the £180 million failure of the business.

He is accused of 46 offences relating to the management and the collapse of the company in June 1988.

## COMMENT David Brewerton

### Riddle of the minister who gagged himself

On a cold Monday morning, in a court in Illinois, information of crucial importance to policyholders of Eagle Star Insurance was placed before the United States authorities. The information, carried in later editions of *The Times* yesterday, was that our own Department of Trade and Industry had served a preliminary notice on Hoylake, the company attempting to take over BAT Industries, of which Eagle Star is a part, that Hoylake may not be fit and proper to own an insurance company. The DTI said nothing of this to those most intimately concerned, the policyholders of Eagle Star, who have entrusted their pensions, savings, mortgages and financial futures with the company.

Not only did the department take that first step towards refusal — the lodging of the preliminary notices — it also took the highly unusual step of preparing a draft press notice.

One entirely plausible explanation of this unorthodox sequence of events was that the department, and indeed ministers in other areas of Government, were highly concerned at the implication of massive and highly leveraged bids, such as Hoylake's, for the future of British industry.

In the event, the press notice was not issued and Eagle Star policyholders were kept in ignorance of the preliminary notices of objection. The circumstances of this are not entirely clear. The department says that it was because the bid lapsed. Hoylake suggests that it persuaded the department against the issue of a press notice.

## Taxing test for the Budget

Budget tips were in short supply in the Chancellor's speech during the autumn statement debate yesterday. But in a broad sense he set the scene.

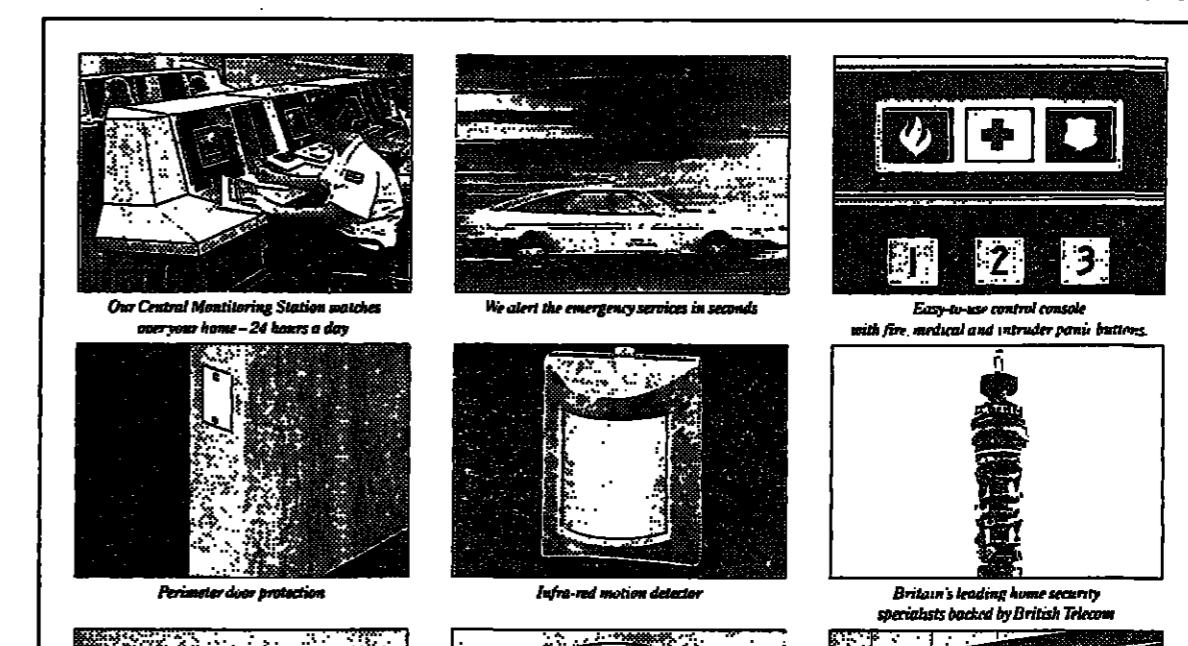
This year's Budget surplus, John Major confirmed, will turn out somewhat lower than the revised forecast of £12.5 billion in the autumn statement and substantially below the £14 billion originally forecast in last year's Budget.

Inevitably this carries implications for next year's arithmetic. The likelihood must be that instead of looking at a surplus of £1 billion, including a fiscal adjustment of £1 billion, the outlook on unchanged policies is for less. Already written into the fiscal sums is a full-year's cost of the 1989 national insurance reform (an extra £1.8 billion) and the initial cost of independent taxation (£500 million).

The changed fiscal outlook is not surprising, given the slowdown in the economy. Rapid economic growth boosts tax revenue and slows the growth in social security costs tending to swell net tax cuts.

He certainly gave every indication of prudence yesterday. Interest rates, he emphasized again, would stay high for some time to come. Fiscal policy would remain tight in order to buttress a firm monetary policy.

This is all sound stuff, but markets will want to see the colour of the Chancellor's money. The fact is that since Mr Major became Chancellor sterling has fallen sharply (even if it has recovered a little) while growth in the money supply shows no sign of slowing. The best available test of the Budget will be whether the Chancellor makes any net cuts in taxes. He will be wise to forswear them this time round, and even to consider net tax increases.



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# Standard Chartered hits peak on new talk of break-up bid

Mounting speculation about a break-up bid for Standard Chartered, the troubled international banking group, sent the shares soaring 24p to a record 583p.

This latest speculative support comes a week after the group issued a warning that pre-tax profits for the current year would not match last year's £13.1 million. By the close, 4 million shares had changed hands in what is normally a tight market where most market-makers are usually only willing to trade in parcels of 25,000 to 50,000 shares at a time.

Standard blamed the expected drop in profits on growing bad debts in this country, corporate problems in Australia – thought to relate to Bond Corporation's debt crisis – and Brazil's failure to pay interest on debt.

James Capel, the broker, has been a big buyer of the shares since then on behalf of its clients and has been urging them to take a two-year view of prospects. This has only added to the problems of stock shortage.

There is talk of a possible break-up bid of not more than 600p a share from Lloyds Bank, although sources close to Lloyds are playing this down. Lloyds made a bid for Standard, which was allowed to lapse in July, 1986 after a number of white squires, including Mr Robert Holmes & Court, Tan Sri Khoi Teck and Sir YK Pao, came to

down at 1,839.6.

Core earnings of Bancorp were \$13.1 million compared with \$12.7 million, while the loan loss provision jumped to \$422.4 million, against 1988's \$90.8 million.

The provision for loan losses in the final quarter was \$17.0 million, up from \$16.6 million. Total assets at the year-end stood at \$21.77 billion.

## American loss for NatWest

NatWest Bancorp, National Westminster Bank's US subsidiary, made a net loss of \$139.5 million (£84.8 million) in 1989, compared with a net profit of \$129.9 million (£79 million) in 1988, after making additional reserves to cover its loans to debtor countries.

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its rescue with the purchase of large stakes. Lloyds finished 1p lower at 288p.

Some of the speculative buying also boiled over into other banks, although prices closed below their best. Barclays ended only 1p better at 550p, while Midland hardened 12p to 372p, and Royal Bank of Scotland firmed 2p to 202p. But there were losses for National Westminster, down 2p to 346p, and Bank of Ireland, 3p to 281p.

The rest of the equity market continued to lose ground with the FT-SE 100 index losing 6.0 points at 2,291.1, having been almost 9 points higher. But the sharp fall that had been expected following the 7.7-point drop on Wall Street on Monday failed to materialise, thanks largely to Tokyo where the Nikkei index rose 121 points.

Dealers in London reported support for shares at about the 2,290 mark, raising hopes that the slide may have started to end. Conditions remained nervous, although turnover did improve to 53.9 million shares compared with recent depressed levels. A computer breakdown at the Stock Exchange prevented the dealers receiving an updated movement of the index for more than two hours and brought confusion to the traded options market. But most brokers muddled through. The FT index of top 30 shares finished only 0.5 of a point down at 1,839.6.

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## Alpha Stocks

Vol 1000	Vol 1000	Vol 1000	Vol 1000
ABT	895	CU	1,512
Abbey Nat	2,020	Lloyds	1,629
Alt-Lyons	1,540	Lloyds	3,437
Amerslnd	2,567	Lloyds	4,455
Amgen	4,467	Lotto	3,411
AMF Foods	2,081	Lotto	1,283
Ampl	1,573	Lotto	1,154
BAA	2,680	LSI	2,720
BET	2,680	LSI	2,845
BTR	2,583	Macmillan Cm	2,945
Burdies	1,045	Macmillan Cm	2,957
Gen Acc	1,045	MEPC	841
Bass	4,045	Midland	2,881
Bazier	515	Midland	2,889
Bentel Ind	2,288	Midland	2,929
Bethel	2,015	Midland	2,939
Blue Arrow	1,045	Midland	2,949
Blue Circle	1,045	Midland	2,959
BOC	1,862	Midland	2,969
Books	4,045	Midland	2,979
Bors	2,122	Midland	2,989
Br Alres	2,288	Midland	2,999
Br Com	1,045	Midland	3,009
Br Gm	1,565	Midland	3,019
Br Land	1,704	Midland	3,029
Br Mar	1,767	Midland	3,039
Br Stad	1,111	Midland	3,049
Br Stad	1,111	Midland	3,059
Br Un	1,045	Midland	3,069
Brown	2,224	Midland	3,079
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# LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Continued on  
page 32

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## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

## Unravelling the Checkland robe

**D**oes the BBC yet have a serious funding problem? Tomorrow governors and management meet to find out. They will have before them the report of a four-man team set up to suggest new ways of funding "a more competitive pay structure while retaining the range and quality of existing programme services".

There is an unspoken subtext. The BBC, along with other established broadcasters, is under orders to clear space for 25 per cent independent production. Inevitably, this means over the next few years a sizeable jolt to BBC in-house programme-making traditions. At the end of the process there are bound to be fewer people on the BBC payroll, whether more competitively paid or not.

That said, Michael Checkland's BBC is no keener on overall programming retrenchment than was that of his predecessor, Alasdair Milne. Both cling to the basic philosophy of an earlier BBC chief, Sir Charles Curran, who likened the BBC operation to a "seamless robe": "It was impossible," Curran wrote, "to disentangle in the whole process one thread from another." There being no loose threads why waste time looking for them? By definition, everything has to be all "of a piece".

And yet, distant forecasts remain stubbornly unsettled. Costs of quality programme-making will surge ahead, as rival outlets price up an already over-stretched British talent base. The Government holds in reserve a threat to trim indexation of the licence fee from 1991, as a prelude to one day ending it. And, come 1996, the BBC's charter is up for review, a process which must force reconsideration of the central issues of range and/or quality. So, where should the BBC's long-term priorities lie? What does it consider to be its core businesses, to be defended and retained if and when the unbundling begins?

The question slices in at least three ways. In the first place, how should local programmes stack up against programmes made for networking for all? The role of local radio in England swims rapidly into focus, but equally delicate are the BBC's special efforts in Wales, and to a lesser extent in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Now, as in the past, all are clamorously defended, and wagging fingers raised against an excessive south-eastern and metropolitan BBC bias. But a determination to tilt against local programming could go hand in hand with an equal determination to see

networked programme-making better spread across Britain.

A second tussle then arises between networks of television and networks of radio. For 35 years, the BBC favoured television as the medium: most under competitive gaze, although in truth radio networks were often better off than they liked to pretend. But the realities of the 1990s call this policy in question. For all the talk of a television revolution, change and added competition will come faster in radio. Three new commercial networks will go direct into every home, and with no need for add-on technological entanglements.

The third level of argument touches on the biggest BBC conundrum of all. Should it continue to embrace popularity, or should it do what critics say it does best, and concentrate on minority programming of greater uplift and aspiration? The distinction is crudely put. In point of fact – and perhaps paradox – the BBC has often performed best of all in obviously popular areas: in best-of, radio and then television comedy. And, in any case, it is folly to consider popularity either as an optional extra or as a diminution. All broadcasters reach for popularity.

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Participants in the dispute, particularly from the BBC side, are now trying to minimize their differences. "Yes, there was some board-level tension," admitted Peter Fiddick, editor of *The Listener* since last year. "But diplomacy is taking place. There is no threat to our future."

But the commercial tensions that fed to the flare-up have yet to be resolved. "The outcome is not assured," said David Shaw, director of the ITV Association, which represents the 16 ITV companies.

Indeed, the long-term future of the magazine may be uncertain. One of the last literary weeklies from the pre-television era, it sold more than 150,000 copies a week as recently as the early 1950s. Now its circulation is down to just over 25,000, and losses are believed to be around £1 million a year. (The BBC noted losses of £500,000 on *The Listener* in its latest annual report). Its main rivals, *New Statesman* and

*Society* and *The Spectator*, sell about 39,700 and 40,300 copies respectively.

The fate of the weeklies is endlessly debated. But a consensus is that they have been marginalized by the growth of Sunday – and now Saturday – newspapers. Alan Coren, who edited *The Listener* until Fiddick took over (and, before that, guided the fortunes of *Punch*, another

ailing member of the club, which sells about 47,000), has little doubt. "I don't think there is much room for the independent weeklies. People get everything from newspapers,

which also have the firepower and money to draw in the interesting writers. In my generation writers used to be happy writing for the weeklies. Now they get absorbed, they get bought in, by newspapers."

Coren adds that the proliferation of media, particularly radio, means that there is "no top-up money from advertising" to keep the weeklies afloat. He thinks only those which are "profession-oriented", such as *The Economist*, will survive.

This was the type of publication the BBC and ITV



Rowing a boat 'The Listener'

The troubled weekly seems set to live for another year, Andrew Lycett reports.

**A**t a board meeting today, the BBC and ITV are expected to drop their differences over *The Listener* and fund the 61-year-old magazine for another year.

Such an amicable outcome seemed unlikely earlier this month. Then, this unlikely alliance appeared at breaking point. The ITV companies were angry with the BBC for poaching Robert Hall, *The Listener*'s highly regarded general manager, to run its proposed television and radio listing bureau. The BBC had announced in November that, in partnership with TV Data, part of the E.W. Scripps newspaper group of the United States, it was setting up a bureau to market its programme details as soon as new legislation limiting its monopoly on this information was passed.

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This was the type of publication the BBC and ITV

envisioned when they combined forces in March 1988 to set up Listener Publications. Until then *The Listener* had been published exclusively by BBC Enterprises. But the debate on the Broadcasting Bill was just getting into its stride. It seemed natural to have a journal to reflect this – and other changes in the media – along with the usual literary trimmings.

However, the broadcasting debate was proceeding too fast for the joint venture's own good. The ITV companies' input was co-ordinated through their subsidiary Independent Television Publications, publishers of *The TV Times*.

Last May, partly because of uncertainty over their position once the

duopoly of *Radio Times* and *TV Times* on television listing was broken, partly out of a desire to fill their corporate coffers prior to the 1991 ITV franchise round, the ITV companies agreed to sell ITF to International Publishing Corporation (IPC).

Having sold the profitable *TV Times*, what incentive was there for ITV to hang on to the loss-making *Listener*? Was it to impress the IBA at franchise auction time?

And what of the BBC, whose BBC Enterprises is responsible for BBC Magazines, including

**I don't think there is much room for the weeklies. People get everything from papers'**

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## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

# Lessons in liberation

In Cardiff, 20 Polish journalists are learning the facts of British press life. Alex Sutherland spoke to them

**L**ast September the *Baltic Daily*, a formerly Communist-controlled paper based in Gdańsk, became Poland's first newspaper to declare itself politically independent. However, after spending two weeks learning how the Press operates in Britain, Stanisław Danieliewicz, a columnist and social affairs correspondent for the *Baltic Daily*, realizes that his colleagues have a lot to learn about running a newspaper in a free society.

"You can't just change from being a mouthpiece for the Communist Party by giving more space to issues like the Church or to Lech Wałęsa," Danieliewicz says. "True independence comes from being able to offer opinion and criticism, of both sides."

It is an understanding of fundamental issues such as these which Danieliewicz — one of 20 Polish journalists currently in Cardiff at the beginning of a two-month crash course in journalism — hopes to take back with him to Poland.

The journalists — most of whom are in their twenties and thirties — are here at the invitation of the Government's Know-How fund, an initiative launched by the Mrs Thatcher last June to help Poland achieve democracy and economic reform.

Over the next five years, the fund will contribute £50 million to a variety of projects, providing British technical aid

and expertise to Poland. The project will be extended to cover Hungary later this year. In addition to the two-month course run for newspaper journalists, money will also go to fund a series of six-week schemes, run by the BBC World Service, to train 36 Polish radio and television journalists this year. The first group of six will arrive in Britain next month.

No one doubts that the problems the media face in Poland — as in the other newly-emerging democracies in Eastern Europe — are enormous. For more than 40 years, journalists have either acted as propagandists for the Communist Party, or been forced to work for the underground press.

Life was hard for those who worked underground, as they operated from secret hideouts in cellars and went in fear of the police. Danieliewicz was imprisoned for nine months for inserting a coded message denouncing martial law in an article for the *Baltic Daily*.

But whether official or non-official, the Polish media have never had to grasp an editorial understanding of how to question the different ideologies, or confront the commercial pressures of a competitively run press or broadcasting system. Irena Tomaszewska, who works for Polish Television in Warsaw, reckons that at least a third of her colleagues will lose their jobs as the Polish media are streamlined.



Concentrating on change: Irena Tomaszewska, a television journalist from Warsaw

The course began with three weeks in Cardiff at the Thomson Foundation, an independent charity which has run courses for journalists from the Third World since the 1960s. The programme, administered by the British Council, includes lectures from editors of national quality and tabloid newspapers, as well as directors of media organizations such as the Press Council and the Press Association, and even an address by Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, on off-the-record political briefings.

Next week, the Polish journalists begin a month-long attachment to newspapers and broadcasting organizations in different parts of the UK, followed by a final week in London spent visiting the House of Commons and meeting MPs with Polish interests.

"The aim is to provide ideas rather than skills," says Val Williams, controller of the Thomson Foundation's press division. "We want to raise with them questions of how the Press operates in a free society — not as an arm of government but as a check and balance to society; all of which are totally new concepts in Poland."

The BBC scheme is similar to the Thomson course, taking the journalists around broadcasting organizations and offering lectures by media representatives. The programme has been devised by Gwyneth Henderson, head of the BBC's World Service training. But it will, she insists, take account of independent television and radio as much as the BBC.

"It's a 'warts and all' look at the whole tradition of public service broadcasting in Britain," she says. "We are not trying to pretend we are perfect, but there are questions of accountability and the media's relationship with government and the audience that we can demonstrate."

**G**iemek Smolar, head of the BBC's Polish Service and the man behind the BBC initiative, hopes that what the journalists learn in Britain will ultimately influence the drafting of Poland's broadcasting legislation, due to come into force in March, giving the go-ahead for commercial television and local commercial radio stations.

"What we hope is that they will go back with a greater awareness of the function of the media, and the importance of preserving the integrity of the journalist," he says. "We are not arrogantly saying that what we do is better, but showing them that it is different."

But there are some problems that even the most well-intentioned courses in editorial independence and accountability will have difficulty in solving. Poland's economic crisis and chronic inflation — the cost of newsprint has more than quadrupled since November, and the price of a newspaper has increased nearly sixfold in just six weeks — has meant "luxuries" like newspapers have, for many Poles, gone by the board.

"The biggest problem we face is survival," Danieliewicz admits. "What we have to learn is to operate under new conditions which are closer to capitalism. When people can't afford to buy a newspaper, it is the quality which is important. They will only buy the best."

## Rising trend

Hot-air balloon promotions are really taking off

**U**nited Biscuits is dropping its television advertising for KP Choc Dip, the chocolate biscuit finger aimed at five to 11-year-old children. Instead, it is spending £100,000 on a 90 ft high hot air balloon, shaped like a Choc Dip carton, and sending it on a two-month promotional tour of primary schools.

Are the children being exploited by big business? Some will argue that they are, but for Michael Kendrick, managing director of Airship and Balloon Company of Telford, Shropshire, the promotion demonstrates the growing effectiveness of customized balloons.

His company operates balloons for a dozen companies — from Sterling Health, which has a 100 ft high replica of an Andrews Liver Salts tin (complete with spoon) to Cadbury Schweppes, which has an inflated Creme Egg.

Mark Lockwood, also of ABC, says the balloons, which are powered by liquid propane gas, cost from £6,000 to £40,000 to buy and between £30,000 and £100,000 a year to operate. They are limited by commercial aviation restrictions (they cannot fly over big cities, for example) but Lockwood believes that the attention they attract compares favourably with the success achieved by direct advertising.

Geoff Turner, marketing manager of Flying Pictures, ABC's main rival, agrees that balloons attract media coverage, but says balloons remain a fringe PR activity compared with the more manoeuvrable airships, his company's main interest. Allied Breweries spent £20,000 last year on hiring a Flying Pictures airship to follow the touring Australian cricketers, promoting Castlemaine XXXX lager. At Trent Bridge, Nottingham's test cricket ground, 96 per cent of those questioned had seen the airship and 94 per cent remembered the brand name.

Andrew Lyett

## No profit in politics?

Suggestions that commissions be cut could remove the lustre from taking on government advertising accounts

**U**ntil now, government advertising has been a prestige account for British agencies. Companies such as Saatchi & Saatchi and J. Walter Thompson have jumped at the chance of producing advertisements on often-controversial issues.

Catchlines such as "Click Every Trip" and "Would You Be More Careful If It Was You That Got Pregnant?" have gone down in the advertising history books. More recently, the "Don't Drink And Drive" campaign has been instrumental in spurring agencies to produce advertisements with the same impact.

But, following the recent investigation by the National Audit Office (NAO) into government spending on publicity, and the continuing

debate over the efficacy of the Government's advertising budget of around £100 million, are these accounts losing their status?

At the centre of the current dispute is the NAO's recommendation that agency commission rates should be cut by 1 per cent — a move which

would make a yearly saving of £750,000 to British taxpayers.

While some agencies admit that cutbacks could be made, others argue that this would only lead to ineffective, poorer-quality advertising.

Commission rates are already being squeezed as the Central Office of Information (which is responsible for much of the Government's advertising) seeks to reduce its spending, and the agencies insist that further cuts would render government work too unprofitable.

Advertising is not as cost-effective as it could be as often ministers don't book advertisements or decide when they are going to run campaigns until the last minute. That is a hazard of government business.

Concern over the latest possible cutback has led agencies into preliminary discussions with the COI, which is due to respond to the NAO recommendations in March.

The chief executive of another agency, which has handled government business for more than a decade, adds: "The reason government ad-

vertising is not as cost-effective as it could be is that often ministers don't book advertisements or decide when they are going to run campaigns until the last minute. That is a hazard of government business.

Concern over the latest possible cutback has led agencies into preliminary discussions with the COI, which is due to respond to the NAO recommendations in March.

Ever since government advertising budgets began to

whether government business is actually worth chasing.

Many consider that the reshuffling of government ministers — who now become much more personally involved with advertising than before — is more to blame for any lack of cost-effectiveness or confusion of strategies than anything else. And, as government advertising becomes more of a public issue, the agencies feel they are having to work harder in order to steer clear of possibly contentious political nuances.

The COI denies this is true and that government advertising is becoming politically controlled, and therefore more difficult to handle.

The recent launch of the National Health Service review and, more recently, the H2Owner water privatization campaign — is leading agencies to wonder

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The successful applicant will be part of a small specialist group dealing with classified and display advertisement sales on both papers and should be self-motivated, well-educated (a knowledge of a European language would be an advantage) and articulate. Some experience of selling would be an advantage, preferably in publishing or an allied business.

In addition to a salary in the range of £12,000-£14,000 the Company offers 6 weeks holiday and membership of BUPA.

Apply with full CV to Christopher Lorne, The Times Supplements Ltd., Priory House, St. John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.

A member of The Thomson Corporation

## THE CORONARY PREVENTION GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Coronary Prevention Group is the only UK charity whose entire efforts are devoted to preventing the nation's number one killer, coronary heart disease. The charity

Continued from  
page 29

## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

A Calibre PA  
£17,000+bonus

Our client is a forward thinking, highly progressive and successful force in International Finance. They currently seek a top-tier, professional PA for an extremely high-profile role working alongside their entrepreneurial MD. He has immense constraints made up to his time so will look to you to mastermind his day, organise his business commitments and liaise effectively with VIP clients. You thrive in a fast-paced environment where you can demonstrate your polished communication skills. City background desirable. Strong, flexible manner vital. First-class skills and immaculate presentation required. Age 25-45 with previous senior-level experience. Call 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

Maine-Tucker  
Recruitment ConsultantsUSE your HEAD in  
TELEVISION Advertising!  
£12-14,000 + Package

...this is just the most sensational challenge for a young secretary with great initiative and potential to work with the people who mastermind the most famous Television Advertisements ever to be seen every day on the silver screen. We are not merely looking for a secretary but someone capable of handling with incredible charm three of the most powerful Clients in the Advertising World - it's all in a day's work! Although you do need to type well (50+) there is such freedom to unleash your initiative... express your Team's ideas to help create a video presentation... 'Speak-Out', co-ordinate & organise the Team's valuable time. Promotion will be awarded on merit - you will set your own standards! Start using your HEAD right now and ring us!

50 Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone 01-925 0548

Maine-Tucker  
Recruitment ConsultantsADVERTISING MANIA  
£11-13,000

This Company has just been ranked in the UK's top ten Creative Advertising Agencies and they're still going up fast! They are currently in every issue of Campaign (THE Advertising Grapeme Magazine). This is definitely the Advertising Agency of the 90's! From lavish new offices, less than a minute's walk from Victoria Station, you will be the lynch pin, the driving force, behind this young team of innovators - learning everything you can about the vibrant world of Advertising so that you can talk credibly to Clients - confidence, competence and character and 50 typing are all you need to make your mark in the World of Advertising.

50 Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone 01-925 0548

Maine-Tucker  
Recruitment Consultants

## Potential! ...brilliant £10,000

...can you be the vital pivot for this incredible Creative Company to turn around... they do not need a secretary but an Assistant with gleaming potential who can grasp this sparkling Career Opportunity and fashion it into the Executive position it is definitely destined to become! The last girl has succeeded and it is now up to you to become an Account Executive. They work to electrifying Creative deadlines, somehow you have to perceive every situation and organise your crew so that they can pass the winning post every time. They are like the 'A' Team of Advertising as they rise to every Creative challenge with courageous aplomb. If you are looking for a seriously brilliant, not very secretarial (but you do need 40 typing), move in Advertising you can't afford to waste a second - this type of job is virtually extinct!

50 Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone 01-925 0548

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

THE ROYAL COLLEGE  
OF RADIOLOGISTSTEL: 01-636 4452 38 PORTLAND PLACE  
FAX: 01-323 3100 LONDON W1N 3DG

The Royal College of Radiologists is the professional and examining body responsible for the medical specialties of Diagnostic Radiology and Radiotherapy and Oncology. Based in a Georgian building in W1 the College currently has a staff of 17.

EXAMINATIONS  
ASSISTANT

his is a newly established post to assist with the organisation of the College's Fellowship and Diploma Examinations. Applicants should have a secretarial background, Computer, WP experience essential. Shorthand an advantage.

The post will appeal to applicants who would enjoy the post work necessary to ensure the smooth running of examinations. Salary according to age and experience on scale £11,182 - £13,063.

Staff receive 4 weeks' annual leave, LVS, interest-free season ticket loan. Non-smokers please.

Applications in writing to:

Mrs J. Stephen  
Lecturer in Radiology  
The Royal College of Radiologists  
38 Portland Place  
London W1N 3DG.

## ONE TO ONE

£16,000  
Experienced opportunity for confident top calibre PA/secretary with first class organisational ability to assist with important clients working for dynamic boss in Central London. Good perks. (25-35)  
£16,000

Chairman of successful firm of Architects seeks outgoing PA/Sec. Tremendous variety, lots of organisation and responsibility, stunning W1 offices.

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01-481 4481

## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

## Director's Secretary

SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, a world leader in health care has an enviable record of discovery and development of prescription medicines. Our Regulatory Affairs Department, which is responsible for the registration of new pharmaceutical products worldwide, is seeking to recruit a Secretary who will provide a first class service to the Director, thus ensuring the smooth running of the Department, particularly during the Director's frequent absences.

Candidates must be capable of making independent decisions, recognise priorities and pay meticulous attention to detail. In addition to excellent secretarial skills, applicants must have experience of word processing, preferably Displaywrite 4. Experience of working within a medical environment and an interest in visual aids/graphics is desirable.

Based at our attractive site just outside Epsom the remuneration package is all you would expect from an international company of our stature. It includes a competitive salary, flexible working hours, non-contributory pension, a bonus scheme, sports and social facilities and free transport from the surrounding area.

If you feel that you fulfill the requirements and are interested in this position please phone our 24 hour answering service on Burgh Heath (0737) 364353, quoting reference C8, or write to the Personnel Officer, SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, Yew Tree Bottom Road, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5XQ.

**SB**  
SmithKline Beecham

P.A. IN P.R.  
£16,000

As P.A. to the Chairman of this small corporate and financial public relations company you will need a calm, friendly and outgoing personality. You will be totally involved in the day-to-day running of the business, attending Board meetings and taking minutes, dealing with the Chairman's correspondence, looking after his diary, co-ordinating his travel arrangements and attending to some personal work. There will be a large amount of client contact, both by telephone and in person, as well as some office administration. This is a busy, autonomous role which would suit a mature, flexible P.A. with good communication skills looking for an interesting and varied position.

Age 26+ Skills 80/50.

01-831 1220 5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AR

Jaros Baum & Bolles (UK) Limited, an American firm of Consultant Building Services Engineers, are looking for a Secretarial Supervisor with two years' experience of Word Perfect to maintain the smooth running of their Word Processing Department.

You will be responsible for progressing work through the Department, meeting deadlines and high standards in a very busy area of our organisation. We therefore need someone who has good interpersonal and organisational skills, an eye for detail and a concern for efficiency and quality of presentation. 'A' level English would be an advantage.

We offer excellent working facilities, good career prospects and a starting salary of £15,000.

Applications should be forwarded to Mary Nurse.

Jaros Baum & Bolles (UK) Limited  
Consulting Engineers - Building Services  
Terminal House  
52 Grosvenor Gardens  
London SW1W 0AU

**JB&B**

Administrative Flair?  
£15,000

Superb opening for a self-motivated, organised individual with this small but established Property concern. As PA to their highly successful Managing Director you will enjoy a responsible role where initiative and organisational skills are the essentials for this key position. Besides co-ordinating his business commitments and some personal matters, you will maintain the day-to-day running of his busy office; assessing priorities, actioning admin tasks and utilising your communication skills as you liaise with clients etc. Highly to form and work on your own initiative vital. Excellent skills (100/60). Age 24+? Call 01-935 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

We are creating two new positions to work in our busy Hyde Park corner offices. You should be organised, motivated and above all, able to prioritise a demanding workload for a young friendly team of consultants. You will be aged 16-25 yrs with accurate typing skills, with preferably SVH and a language salary £1,000 plus excellent benefits. Please reply to:

Rebecca Maynew  
Monitor Company  
14 Grosvenor Crescent  
London SW1X 7EE  
Telephone: 01-235 8010  
(no agencies)

IPP LTD

IPP Management Services Limited is the holding company for a group of companies committed to the office environment, furniture and service market based in the UK and Europe.

We need a bright, enthusiastic and extremely professional person to work as receptionist at our Central London headquarters.

We are offering an attractive remuneration package and a friendly environment in which to work. If you have receptionist experience and are aware of the importance of this role within a company, please contact Verity Cunningham on 01-831 3161 for further details.

(no agencies)

## PR EXECUTIVE

Are you an ambitious, talented and experienced (min 3 years) PR EXECUTIVE? Our Knightsbridge based company is looking for you; an extremely organised, self motivated professional with writing skills and enthusiasm for the areas of Home-Interest and Design.

Salary negotiable circa £13,000.

Please phone LAURA HASTINGS-SMITH  
01-584-1744

**MAYFAIR**  
Capable secretary/ P.A. with sense of humour required to organise 2 outgoing Chartered Surveyors. Full computer/WP facilities. Salary plus bonus package. CRCA £12,000 TO £15,000. PHONE: 01-408 1270.

PA IN PR  
£16,000

The London office of a well-established, international PR company is currently looking for a professional and intelligent PA to work for the group's Managing Director.

A good telephone manner and excellent interpersonal skills are essential as you liaise with people at the highest levels. You will also have ample opportunity to demonstrate your organisational ability when co-ordinating the Managing Director's busy schedule as well as organising client entertainment.

Exceptional secretarial skills plus a confident and cheerful personality will give you a great opportunity to join this successful company in a very rewarding role.

90/60 Age: 24+  
Call Angela Mortimer  
Ltd (Recruitment  
Consultants)  
City Office  
Tel: 726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

MONEY  
MAKING  
£17,000

The Company is a fast-moving offshoot of a US Stockbrokers primarily responsible for the financing of airlines and major mergers and acquisitions. Based in sumptuous offices in the West End they are looking for a highly qualified PA to join their team.

One of their senior Directors, a well known City figure is looking for a right hand to help him and hold the fort as he travels extensively.

You will need to be numerate as part of your job will involve assisting with accounting procedures. It is you are prepared to put in the commitment required for this exciting opportunity the rewards include a substantial salary and free lunches in addition to the satisfaction of coping with a challenging job.

French useful, 100/60 25-35

Call Angela Mortimer  
Ltd (Recruitment  
Consultants)

City Office

Tel: 726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

2. THE CASE OF THE  
DISAPPEARING TUNA.

THE GREAT DICTATOR. MY DARLING BOSS, HAS AN EXPENSE CLAIM FOR FLORIDA QUERIED.

PERSONALLY I THINK TGD HAS SHOWN UNCHARACTERISTIC RESTRAINT. BUT THERE'S A QUESTION OVER HIS £287 CLAIM FOR A 500LB TUNA.

NO-ONE IN ACCOUNTS UNDERSTANDS THE PROTOCOL INVOLVED: LARGE AMERICAN CLIENTS RESPECT A BRIT WHO BRINGS IN THE 'BIG ONE' ON HIS FIRST FISHING TRIP.

I INFORMED TGD THAT "ACCOUNTS WANTS EITHER THE RECEIPT OR THE FISH." I HOPE ACCOUNTS HAS A SENSE OF HUMOUR.

TGD NOW ASKS ME TO CLAIM A FURTHER £155 FOR THE BURIAL OF THE POOR BEAST. THE LESSON IS - YOU CAN OFTEN SMELL A RAT IN A FISHY TALE. TIME TO WEIGH TODAY'S CATCH IN ELIZABETH HUNT APPOINTMENTS.

**RICH AND FAMOUS** £17,000  
THIS MAJOR RETAIL GROUP SEEKS A PA/SECRETARY TO A VERY SUCCESSFUL PERSON. YOU WILL ALSO BE INVOLVED IN THE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS. FASCINATING ROLE AS YOU MEET CELEBRITIES AND ACT ALMOST AS A SOCIAL SECRETARY. 60WPM AUDIO ABILITY, SHORTHAND AN ASSET. TEL: 01-248 3744.

**CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY** £22,000  
JOIN THIS SUCCESSFUL HOLDING COMPANY WHICH OWNS A LEADING SUPERMARKET CHAIN. YOU WILL ALSO BE INVOLVED IN ACQUISITIONS. CHAIRMAN LEVEL BACKGROUND GAINED WITHIN A LARGE BLUE CHIP COMPANY. 100/50 SO. SKILLS. TEL: 01-408 0247.

**ADMINISTRATOR** £18,000  
JOIN THIS LEADING FIRM OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS. TAKE CHARGE OF ALL COMPANY ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING STAFF RECRUITMENT, INVOLVEMENT WITH PR/ MARKETING PROJECTS. TWICE YEARLY SALARY REVIEW. PREVIOUS OFFICE MANAGEMENT, COMPUTER SOFTWARE EXPERIENCE AND 50 WPM TYPING. TEL: 01-248 3511.

**SECRETARIAL** £17,500  
FAMOUS NAME MAYFAIR COMPAGNIE SEEKS A PA/SECRETARY TO THEIR TITLED CHAIRMAN. HE NEEDS YOU TO DO A LOT OF WORK ON BUSINESS PROJECTS. THEREFORE YOU WILL ENJOY CONSTANT CONTACT WITH VIP'S, SUPERB OFFICES AND FIVE WEEKS HOLIDAY. 60WPM TYPING. TEL: 01-408 0247.

**SECRETARIAL** £17,500  
CLOSE TO COVENT GARDEN, THIS MAJOR CITY COMPANY SEEKS A PA/SECRETARY. YOU WILL ALSO BE INVOLVED IN THE EXECUTIVE SUIT. YOUR DAY WILL BE DUSH BUT NOT PRESSURISED. TWICE YEARLY SALARY REVIEW. 60WPM TYPING. TEL: 01-240 3511.

**CITY SOPHISTICATION** £21,500  
THE SENIOR PARTNER OF THIS MAJOR CITY COMPANY IS A VERY SOPHISTICATED MAN WITH A WIDE FRIENDSHIP. HE NEEDS YOU TO DO A LOT OF WORK ON BUSINESS CONTRACTS AND NEEDS AN EQUAL, SOCIABLE, CONFIDENT PA WITH EXCELLENT ORGANISING ABILITY AND SO. SKILLS. TEL: 01-248 3744.

**Elizabeth Hunt**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

日本語業務セクレタリー  
アドミニストレーター

Large, prestigious firm of Chartered Accountants based in EC4 require a mature Audio/Copy/Word Processing Secretary, with knowledge of a Japanese keyboard. Must be 'A' Level educated and fluent in Japanese, as translation will be involved. Age open. Up to £16,000 AAE. Ref: S-111

**RING REED**  
employment

01-621 0155  
47 Liverpool Street, EC2  
(Opposite Next)

Marketforce  
APPOINTMENTS

## PURELY PERSONNEL

## 3 VACANCIES £10-13K + EXC BENS

The move into personnel will enable you to become thoroughly involved in all aspects of the running of this busy and expanding department.

If you are a college leaver with an interest in dealing with people at a level there are two positions available. If, on the other hand you have more experience and a more senior position offered for you.

You will be dealing with everything from recruitment, organising training courses and liaison with colleges through to arranging personnel, holiday requests and references.

All these positions are challenging and challenging.

If you have good S/H, WP and communication skills with At least 1 year experience in a秘arial capacity, English 'O' Level contact Clare Roswell.

Marketforce Apartments  
16 Dover Street London W1X 2PL  
Tel: 01-408 1616 Fax: 01-401 2588

YOU MAY FACE  
THESE PROBLEMS

## Childcare provision

## Equal opportunities policies

## Recruitment advertising

## Testing and assessment

## Find the solution

The Personnel Today Workshop is a conference and exhibition for all who manage a workforce

Olympia 2 · London

31 January 12-6

1 February 9.30-6 · 2 February 9.30-5

More details on 01-370 8214

## PA IN INVESTMENT

P.A. required for Managing Director of small, successful investment company in the West End.

Responsibility for administration of the office and scope to become fully involved in future expansion.

WP (WordPerfect 5 - training will be given) and audio/shorthand. Non-smoker. Ability to work alone important. Attractive package & benefits.

Please phone, in confidence, with full C.V. to:

Mark Thomson, Bylock Investments Ltd, 49 Hay's Mews, London W1X 7RT

THE CONDE NAST  
PUBLICATIONS LTD.,

Has vacancies for young Secretaries. Good typing, WP and Shorthand essential. Please write enclosing your CV to:

Miss Barbara Tims,  
Personnel Director,  
Vogue House, Hanover Square,  
London, W1R 0AD.

01-481 4481

## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

\*\*\*EXPLORING NEW PASTURES\*\*\*  
\*£14,000 + BONUS\*  
This large very successful Co. require their missing link within their sales division. You will work along side the sales director providing secretarial support as well as being involved in the new business of the company. If you are looking for an exciting and challenging position and feel you want to be more than just a secretary. Please Call Julia now.

Susan Beck

RECRUITMENT 01-501 6303

\*\*\*TIME ON YOUR HANDS\*\*\*  
\*£13,000 + PERKS\*  
If you are flexible and enjoy variety in your work this upmarket Swiss Watch Co. might just be what you are looking for. Dealing with all aspects of PR and advertising through Marketing, Marketing and Sales. Keeping the office runs smoothly. A very interesting and rewarding position with only a little typing. Call Julia.

Susan Beck

RECRUITMENT 01-501 6302

\*\*\*EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT IN WORLD FAMOUS AUCTION HOUSE\*\*\*  
\*£14,000+\*  
This is not just a secretarial position, but more of an Executive Assistant. Your day will be very varied and no two days will be the same. This unique position would suit someone today in their late 20's or early 30's. You will be exposed to professional and good personal skills, besides a good secretarial background are required. Five weeks holiday, secretarial bonus plus free lunch. Call Beverley.

Susan Beck

RECRUITMENT 01-501 6302

\*\*\*BECAUSE FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT\*\*\*  
\*£12,000 +  
Fantastic Bonus\*  
Are you fed up with your day being mundane and boring? Then this is the job for you. This very young, lively company based in the heart of the West End requires a Junior Secretary/Assistant. You will be exposed to professional and good personal skills, besides a good secretarial background are required. Five weeks holiday, secretarial bonus plus free lunch. Call Beverley.

Susan Beck

RECRUITMENT 01-501 6302

\*\*\*FOR SALE IN SW7\*\*\*  
\*£13,000 Neg\*  
Provide the back up for this very busy international property company. They require a Secretary/Administrator with good typing and organisational skills. It is an exciting and confident and enthusiastic position to use to your own initiative. This is a good opportunity for someone who enjoys using their initiative and would like to work in a highly confidential environment. Call Sara.

Susan Beck

RECRUITMENT 01-501 6302

\*\*\*PRIVATE EYE\*\*\*  
\*£13,000 Neg\*  
Do you wish to be part of a professional company? This reputable Mayfair-based company requires a Secretary/Administrator with good typing and organisational skills. It is an exciting and confident and enthusiastic position to use to your own initiative. This is a good opportunity for someone who enjoys using their initiative and would like to work in a highly confidential environment. Call Sara.

Susan Beck

RECRUITMENT 01-501 6302

## ■ Personnel &amp; PR to £13,000

Variety is the word for this busy and demanding role as secretary to Admin Officer in W1 firm. Personnel responsibilities from keeping staff records to organising temporary support. PR flair useful for organising concerts and racing days and helping with the firm's newsletter. General admin and secretarial support need 60wpm WP. Talk to Claire Parr on 01-637 3303.

LOVE + TATE Appointments

## ■ Interior Design £15,000

Work alongside young general manager, his sales team and interior designers as he sets up and runs new outlets for furniture/interior design company in W1. Organise travel, manage diaries, meet customers, suppliers and advertising agents. You will be articulate with good typing of around 50wpm WP and 50wpm shorthand. Phone Claire Parr now on 01-637 3303.

LOVE + TATE Appointments

## DIRECTOR OF EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM NEEDS ORGANISING

We are looking for a mature, efficient and reliable PA/Secretary who will create order and work well under pressure. You will be totally involved, with plenty of client and candidate contact.

Your secretarial skills will be excellent, with accurate shorthand (90 wpm+) and languages will be an asset.

You will have a professional telephone manner and smart presentation.

If you have the above qualities and skills, please call us to discuss this position which offers a salary of £15k negotiable in W1.

Call Senior Secretaries on 01-499 0092, 173 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PB.

SENIOR SECRETARIES

THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THE RIGHT PEOPLE

## HIGH FLYER

You will not pilot the plane, but you will use your initiative and cope under pressure in a fast moving cockpit!

The Finance Director of this Aviation Company is looking for a numerate PA/Secretary with excellent secretarial skills (S/H 90 wpm and WP experience). You will need a good telephone manner, smart

presentation and strong personality. You will be responsible, professional and mature, and enjoy being part of a small team.

Salary £15k negotiable, plus benefits. Smart WC2 offices.

Call Senior Secretaries on 01-499 0092, 173 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PB.

SENIOR SECRETARIES

THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THE RIGHT PEOPLE

## ART GALLERY £12,700 + 6 WEEKS HOLIDAY

Working in the Trust Office of this West End Gallery, you will need excellent word processing skills, plus a good telephone manner and the ability to organise and work well under pressure. Liasing with sponsors and helping to organise fund raising events, you'll find that this is the most exciting 'behind the scenes' area of the Art world, its purpose is to finance exhibitions and attract buyers of visitors each and every day of the year!

01-497 8003

SUSAN DOUGHTY

RECRUITMENT

Suite 314, Bedford Chambers, North Plaza, Covent Garden, London WC2

## PROSPECTS IN PR £14,500 + BONUS

Excellent opportunity to progress from being a Shorthand Secretary to an Account Handler, within six months! This rapidly expanding and successful Corporate & Financial PR Consultancy is now looking for an ambitious secretary with initiative, a logical mind, foresight and a strong personality, plus the ability to work under pressure and communicate effectively at all levels! 90/50 and previous PR experience preferred.

01-497 8003

SUSAN DOUGHTY

RECRUITMENT

Suite 314, Bedford Chambers, North Plaza, Covent Garden, London WC2

## RICHMOND

UK offices of International Group require secretary in early 20's with good secretarial skills and preferably experienced in financially related work. Must be well-presented, a non-smoker and car driver preferred.

Benefits include excellent salary, free lunches and even the use of a heated swimming pool.

Write or fax your C.V. to:

Lindsay Whitburn  
Solglas International BV,  
The King's Observatory  
Old Deer Park, Richmond,  
Surrey TW9 2AZ  
Tel: 01-940 9177  
Fax: 01-948 7323

NO AGENCIES

## C. £16,000 FOR WORKING AT LEISURE!

Mainly in disco's this company is expanding rapidly, not only in the UK, but also across Europe. You'll be Sec PA to the Chief Executive, but working as a member of his close-knit, fun-team. Essential attributes for this job: good shorthand and WP, A1 on the phone, well presented - always. Age 25 up, but not too far up. London location, easy to get to by bus, tube or B.R. Ring now.

The leisure industry is very popular!

MARY VERTON  
RECRUITMENT

35 PICCADILLY, LONDON W1V 9PB. TEL: 01-734 7282

## MACKAY for Secretaries OPEN THURSDAYS UNTIL 7PM

PA £14,000

Do you enjoy working on a one-to-one basis? Then consider this exciting and dynamic holding company. Your role involves a high admin content as well as travel and client contact. Superbly located in specialist new offices.

Call Glynn Ranger  
The Specialist Recruitment Consultant for Secretaries!  
Our Fax No for CV's is 01-491 2555

70-71 New Bond Street, W1 (Oxford St, end) 01-491 6363

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT  
Friendly/Professional Secretarial bureau is looking for a self motivated / positive thinking interviewer with proven employment agency experience having worked in W/End a definite advantage.

REALISTIC GOOD BASIC PLUS 10% COMMISSION ON ALL PLACEMENTS.  
RING JOYCE POOLEY ON 323 5090.

PERSONNEL SEC £13,000

EXEC FLOAT SEC £14,800

Long leave, LV's, IFSTL, Comms

within the security of a permanent job

within the executive team of this

international company. You

will have your own office,

become involved in

existing projects and handle

confidential matters. S/H

essential.

Call Glynn Ranger

The Specialist Recruitment Consultant for Secretaries!

Our Fax No for CV's is 01-491 2555

70-71 New Bond Street, W1 (Oxford St, end) 01-491 6363

ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED?

A bright &amp; good humoured

secretary is required to

assist in general duties in

friendly Estate Agents in

Putney.

Challenging position

working with both Sales &amp;

Rentals. therefore a quick &amp;

competent person with WP &amp;

Audio skills required.

For further details call

Tom Hooper on 01-785 6222.

Douglas &amp; Gordon

SO, YOU WOULDN'T ENJOY WORKING FOR A MERCHANT BANKER!

We have openings in Media, TV, PR, Advertising, Property,

and Banking among others. If you have secretarial experience and are

looking for a change of scene with a higher salary,

call us now on 01 287 3520 or fax CV's on 01 287 8578.

Jillian Perry Associates, 4th Floor, 25-7 Oxford Street, London, W1R 1RF.

Create an Impression c £19,000

Dynamic Chairman of highly successful communications

company seeks an equally dynamic Personal Assistant. Can you

match his expectations?

You need poise and maturity to cope with the demands when the

pressure is on, and the patience and understanding to keep calm in a

crisis. You must be continuously one step ahead, alert, accurate and meticulous to co-ordinate, liaise and organise effectively.

Senior level PLC experience and a financial background needed to

understand the variety of his business concerns. Skills 100/60/WP.

Age 28 - 40.

Please telephone Fiona Marriott on 01-434 4512

NON-SECRETARIAL

c £12,000 p/wk

Interesting/boring opportunity: MD of Covent Garden creative

advertising agency needs driver for 12 months (pref. in SW6 area).

Chance to learn business, but must be prepared for mundane

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ue to present  
ful case for  
ace in Paris

1 Handa, Rugby Correspondent  
and Arctic Call to end rival's sequence

JULY 15/90

By Mandarin  
(Michael Phillips)

Visitors to Wolverhampton today can rest assured that the EBF Novices' Chase will be a good spectacle, even though there are only five runners. Two of them, Arctic Call and High Ham Blues, have been beaten already won seven races this season.

Some rather uncompromising things were said about High Ham Blues when he was hurdles but he has taken to jumping fences like the proverbial duck to water and started up a sequence of five wins in a row.

Last time, though, he appeared to have luck on his side at Plumpton because Mister Ed was alongside and seemingly going every bit as well when he misjudged the last fence and fell.

In the circumstances, I will not be surprised if his winning run is brought to an end today by Arctic Call, who looked



Oliver Sherwood: sends Arctic Call to Wolverhampton

such a promising recruit in the autumn when winning at Kempton and Newbury.

My confidence in Arctic Call would be greater but for the fact that he fell at Haydock last time added to which, he comes from Oliver Sherwood's stables which is currently under a bit of a cloud due to an outbreak of coughing.

A line through Braazon and Junior Parker would appear to give Babil sufficient in hand to cope with Dorver,

could turn out to be Babil, who is napped to win the Staying Conditional Jockeys Novices' Hurdle.

When the Gloucestershire trainer, Nigel Twiston-Davies, paid 15,000 guineas for Babil at Newmarket last July, some eyebrows were raised. The colt had just had a most disappointing year on the Flat, having shown promise in the season before.

However, being gelded and subsequently taught to jump appears to have been the making of him because he did not put a foot wrong at Newbury last month when he beat Zamil and Monday's Leicester winner, Brabazon. Prior to that Babil had shown the requisite promise at Worcester when second to Jenny Pitman's recent Ascot winner, Egypt Mill.

Running for the first time for his current connections, Dumtree shaped nicely enough in hand to cope with Dorver, the safest bet of the day

who has run with a measure of promise behind those good horses, Forest Sun and Danny Harrold.

Western Gun, a talented horse on the Flat on his day, begins a fresh career in the Bishop's Wood Novices' Hurdle but, in this instance, I prefer Desirée who won a

race in the race won by Steppie Lane.

A lad Insane, my choice to win the Essington Novices' Handicap Chase, might well have beaten the Welder and Broad Beam at Ascot last time had he jumped the last fence properly.

While his stable companion, Just For The Crack, is not

without a chance of winning the Crompton Handicap Chase, I just prefer Mister Feathers who is more consistent.

In the Kidderminster Handicap Hurdle, I like noting more than Capella, who ran Doc's Coat, the winner of his previous race, by 20 lengths, to a head at Worcester eight days ago.

Finally, I like the look of Captain Mac's chance of winning the Winter Sports Handicap Chase at Sedgfield, where he easily disposed of Sward Beach over the same distance last week.

## WOLVERHAMPTON

Selections  
By Mandarin

1.45 Babil (nap).  
2.15 A Lad Insane.  
2.45 Mister Feathers.

3.15 Arctic Call.  
3.45 Dumtree.  
4.15 Capella.

By Michael Seely  
1.45 Babil. 4.15 Capella.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.45 Babil.

## Guide to our in-line racecard

1 13/14 GOOD TIMES (16/F, 13) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 5 West (7) 88  
Second name. Six-figure form (F = fall, P = pulled up, U = unseated rider, B = brought down, S = slipped up, R = refused, D = disgruntled, H = horse, N = name, C = course, last outing, F = fall, H = hood, P = pictures, V = visitor, D = distance winner, C = course winner, D = distance winner, CD = course and distance winner). The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

1.45 STAYING CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HURDLE (E1,928; 2m 6f 110yds) (17 runners)

1 421 BABEL 25 (M Christoff) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-11 M Foster 88  
2 400 BUDDY BOSS (R (Brooksby)) N Henderson 5-11-8 C Heggan 90  
3 406 CEEVA PARK 12 (Mrs P Morrison) R Espham 5-11-9 A Wilson 90  
4 40824 DORVER 16 (Under Orders Racing) P Sowell 5-11-8 I Shonehan 90  
5 40825 GENEROUS 11 (T Shiver) Mrs S Oliver 6-11-6 W Hayes 76  
6 40826 KAMBA LAD 14 (A Whinney) S Sykes 5-11-8 M White 76  
7 40827 KENJAR 319 (Mrs A Kent) Mrs S Richardson 7-11-5 N Williams 76  
8 40828 TOWER 319 (R Farbene) Mrs S Richardson 7-11-5 P Vining 76  
9 40829 MOON RUN 33 (Mrs C George) G Hall 7-11-6 S Mackay 76  
10 40830 MUSMUS' CHANCE 18 (G Godden) R Manning 6-11-6 N Heslop 76  
11 40831 MUNJARD 11 (Mrs T Palman) G Baldwin 5-11-5 S Hodges 77  
12 40832 PATES MUSTELLE (T Tonder) R Channon 5-11-6 J Ratton 77  
13 40833 PEGASUS 12 (Mrs A Whinney) G Hall 5-11-6 G Denman 90  
14 40834 ROZEL GAMBLE 12 (C Corlett) C Tracy 5-11-6 I Lawrence 90  
15 40835 ZINGARO BOY 33 (Mrs A Kent) K Bailey 5-11-6 J Lawrence 90  
16 40836 EYE FROM EVEREST 12 (Major R T Thomas) C James 7-11-1 P McCabe 90  
17 40837 ROYAL BRUSH 4707 (Walt G Eright) G Hall 5-11-1 R Moore 90  
BETTING: 10-1 Babil, 4-1 Munjard, 4-1, 6-1 Babil, 10-1 Kambi Lad, 20-1 others.

1989: 4-5 Arctic Call, 11-8 High Hams, 10-1 Another Norfolk, 14-1 Daniel Martin, 25-1 Age Of

Discretion.

Going: good to firm (chase course)  
good, good to soft in places (hurdles)

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17 40837 ROYAL BRUSH 4707 (Walt G Eright) G Hall 5-11-1 R Moore 90  
BETTING: S-1 Nearly Ready, 2-2 Scillon Passage, 4-1 La Imme, 5-1 Tipton, 1-1 Bettiner Boy, 10-1 Dabber, 20-1 others.

1989: KYMERA KING 7-10-13 G Mernagh 7-9 J Chugg 9

FORM FOCUS BABEL, ran well to 2nd at Newbury 2m 6f, good; previously beaten 108 to Eydal (5m) again at Worcester (2m, good).

BABEL should appreciate this longer trip, staying well to finish 10th to Forest Sun at Newbury (2m 6f, good); latest 115/4th to Danny Harrold at Worcester (2m 4f, good) when 8th of 12 limiters to Patrick James.

ROZEL GAMBLE is also disgruntled and remains in a 10th place in this week's race.

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The Times guide to the XIVth Commonwealth Games, whose opening ceremony takes place in Auckland today

# Showing a fairer face to the world

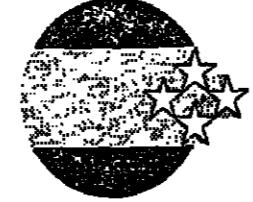
From David Miller  
Auckland

In the week that John McEnroe is belatedly disqualified, Ben Johnson has his records and medal erased, Kevin Moseley, a Welsh rugby player, is suspended for the season, and African members of the Commonwealth decide that boycotts are a threat to sport, suddenly has a fresher face for the Nineties.

The fourteenth Commonwealth Games, which begin in earnest tomorrow after today's opening ceremony, may be part of a new era in sport in which distorted motives of the past 20 years, profit-oriented and cheat-infested, are at last exposed and rejected.

There are those who see the Commonwealth Games as a pale imitation of the first division of championships: Olympic, world, Continental. I see them as a surviving example of the truth of sport, of playing for the pleasure of being together and of expanding our personal experience. These are the only reasons most of the competitors and officials are here.

Yet nobody here can tell us



what is the Commonwealth, other than that it is a bond between peoples spread across the globe who speak the same language: peoples of a former, 400-year-old empire with all the lingering inhibitions and psychological complexes of rulers and ruled, yet also with all the affinities, the shared history and culture and, in most instances, the affection that is left behind.

The Commonwealth Games exist as a stage for common interests created by that history and, like the Olympic Games, their continuation is, if nothing else, a mark of civilization between peoples. I had dinner the other night with a group of Jamaicans, Afro-Caribbeans and a Saxon, sport and language our common ground.

"The pleasure of these Games is that everybody speaks the same and can understand each other," one

of the Jamaicans said with all the contentment of belonging to an archbishop easing himself into an armchair at the Athenaeum.

Yet contrary to certain perceptions, the Commonwealth Games, which began as the British Empire Games in Hamilton, Ontario, 50 years ago with 400 competitors from 11 countries and today have almost 3,000 competitors from 57 member nations out of 62, are not necessarily so inferior.

On January 30 we are going

to see possibly one of the finest men's marathons ever run; the men's middle-distance and women's long-distance events have some of the most outstanding runners in the world today; the badminton, boxing, swimming, cycling and judo will all have world-class threads running through them.

Edinburgh in 1986 may have been a double disaster of boycott and weather, but down the years Vancouver, 1954, with Bannister and Landy, Perth with Snell, Jamaica with Keino and Christy, and Bayi, Walker and Bayi have all given us

peaks of exhilaration.

And now? There are so many fine competitors present, and not just in athletics, that of Britain should guard against regarding these in advance as the Coe Games.

They may yet be, but the England team was sensible in nominating Karen Briggs, the multiple world judo champion, to carry the flag rather than Coe, for whom the honour of a medal in either of two events in his 34th year would be more than compensation.

Though not beyond his remarkably surviving powers, a medal will be achieved by Coe only by exceptional performance against the toughest of opponents: McKeon and Kiprotich in the 800 metres, Elliott and Kirochi, the world junior champion — who was seven when Coe won the European indoor title at 800 — in the 1,500. Elliott, the Olympic silver medal winner, is in the sharpest form.

Just as the Olympic Games in Seoul belonged to the Kenyans, so may these Games; and their team of 45 is expected to add substantially

to the unequalled middle-distance record, since they first emerged at the 1966 Games in Kingston, of 21 gold, 11 silver and 18 bronze medals alongside the 10-7-7 in the Olympic Games in the same 24-year period.

Ngugi, in the 5,000, and Wakihinu, in the marathon, are magnificent runners by the standard of any era, and Wakihinu's waterfront duel next Tuesday morning before breakfast with the Australians, de Castella, twice champion, and Moneghetti, Ikingaa, of Tanzania, and Jones, of Wales, could give us a race to set the Games alight.

Linford Christie, who yesterday effectively became by default of Johnson the 1986 100 metres champion as well as Olympic silver medal winner two years later, may produce, in his rivalry with Ray Stewart, of Jamaica, the world championship bronze medal winner, the fastest sprinting New Zealand has seen — especially were we to catch a glimpse of the sun at last.

Elsewhere, quality bristles. With Malaysia back in the ring after the Edinburgh boycott,

and is now a mother, is coming back to compete in five events.

It seems certain that the Games will survive even with the government/taxpayer of New Zealand having to pick up an expected £10 million loss on a Games investment of £40 million. The hidden tourist benefits could be as much as £300 million, and India, Malaysia, Australia and Wales have all put their names forward to offer a host candidate city for 1998 at yesterday's general assembly.

The probability is that, to raise the income of the Games, one or two team sports should be included to enhance the attraction for television and the rights fee.

What is certain is that the administration of the Games Federation, on the evidence of yesterday's confused assembly, needs overhauling, with the possibility, they themselves tell me, of winning every gold medal. The women are particularly strong on the first occasion when judo is a full medal sport.

Swimming could produce its world records from Bonsman, of Australia, in the 1,500 metres freestyle, and Moorhouse, of England, in the 100 metres breaststroke. Lisa Curry, of Australia, who won three gold medals in Brisbane,

IAN STEWART

Swimmers want captain to inspire

By Craig Lord

Much has changed in the world of breaststroke swimming since Adrian Moorhouse, of Leeds, won gold in the 200 metres at the last Games in Edinburgh. Since then, the Yorkshireman has excelled at the 100 metres, taking the Olympic and European titles, setting a world record of 1min 01.49sec, and becoming the first man to break the one minute barrier, by returning a time of 59.7sec, in a 25-metre pool.

The intervening years have also seen the rise to prominence of Nick Gillingham, of Birmingham, as a challenger to Moorhouse's supremacy. Last summer he won the European 200 metres title and set a world record of 2min 12.90sec, only to have the record wrenched from him within 36 hours when Mike Brownlow, of the United States, covered the distance 0.001sec faster.

The two clashes between Moorhouse and Gillingham in Auckland are quite likely to be among the highlights of the Games. Tomorrow they meet in the 100 metres, where Moorhouse's world dominance in terms of speed has been little challenged over the last two years.

What has been called into question, however, is his ability to win races. At the Europa Cup last month his hesitation at the start proved decisive and he had to settle for silver.

To ensure gold tomorrow Moorhouse will certainly need his wits about him when the starter's gun fires, especially if Gillingham lives up to his own predictions.

After winning the 200 metres and coming third to Moorhouse in the 100 metres at the trials in November, Gillingham made clear his passion for a victory in the sprint event.

He said: "The 200 metres has really come around, but I've been working at the weights and have gained almost a stone in weight since the summer. That programme is aimed at bringing my 100 metres time down. I've done 1min 02sec and there's a lot still to come."

Moorhouse certainly has the speed to avert such a threat and can, too, call upon a vast amount of experience, even if he has suffered the odd nightmare since the summer. That programme is aimed at bringing my 100 metres time down. I've been concentrating on improving my 200 metres and would love to retain the title."

Now I'm older, I have a lot of success behind me and I've learned a few valuable lessons. I've been working hard for the Commonwealth Games and I believe the best is yet to come. The 100 metres is obviously the race in which people will be watching out for me. But I've been concentrating on improving my 200 metres and would love to retain the title."

Success tomorrow would obviously provide Moorhouse with a perfect platform for the longer race three days later. But much will also depend on Gillingham's performance in the sprint event. Should he finish too close, for the Yorkshireman's comfort, his confidence about the outcome of the 200 metres race will certainly increase.

From a team point of view it is vital that tomorrow's final provides an English one-two, with, hopefully, another competitor from Leeds, James Parrott, taking third place. Such is the respect in which Moorhouse, the men's captain, and Gillingham are held by the rest of the team that failure could be a crushing blow to hopes of exceeding the Edinburgh medal tally of eight gold, 16 silver, and 15 bronze.

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The Ugandan team has struggled into Auckland after five days of sleeping in airport lounges. A casualty en route was Charles Lubulwa, a medal prospect in welterweight boxing who was left behind in a Singapore hospital with malaria.

Because of late air bookings, the Ugandans had to take several detours to get to Auckland.

Swaziland's pruned-down Games team also arrived late, after 35 hours flying time, and passing through London and Tokyo. The team had been told it could not go because of a cash shortage, but finally made it to New Zealand with 17 of its original 40 chosen competitors.

Today and tomorrow

All times in GMT

TODAY AND TOMORROW

GYMNASTICS: 01.00: Men's artistic teams. 05.00: Men's rhythmic

SHOOTING: 02.30: Free pistol relay.

BADMINTON: 20.00: Team events.

SWIMMING: 20.00: Women's angles; men's pairs, medley relay.

CYCLING: 22.00: 100m road team trials.

SHOOTING: 22.00: Field pistol; rifle pairs; rapid fire pistol. 22.15: Rifle relay.

SWIMMING: 20.00: 100m freestyle; men's 400m individual medley; men's 100m backstroke; women's 4x 100m medley relay.

WRESTLING: 01.00: Singling class.

WRESTLING: 01.00: Singling class.

GAMES ON TV

Today

02.00: Opening Ceremony.

05.00: Men's artistic teams.

06.00: Women's rhythmic

07.00: Men's 400m individual medley.

08.00: Women's 400m individual medley.

09.00: Men's 100m backstroke.

10.00: Women's 100m backstroke.

11.00: Men's 4x 100m medley relay.

12.00: Women's 4x 100m medley relay.

13.00: Men's 400m individual medley.

14.00: Women's 400m individual medley.

15.00: Men's 100m freestyle.

16.00: Women's 100m freestyle.

17.00: Men's 400m freestyle relay.

18.00: Women's 400m freestyle relay.

19.00: Men's 4x 200m medley relay.

20.00: Women's 4x 200m medley relay.

21.00: Men's 400m medley relay.

22.00: Women's 400m medley relay.

23.00: Men's 4x 100m medley relay.

24.00: Women's 4x 100m medley relay.

25.00: Men's 400m medley relay.

26.00: Women's 400m medley relay.

27.00: Men's 4x 200m medley relay.

28.00: Women's 4x 200m medley relay.

29.00: Men's 400m medley relay.

30.00: Women's 400m medley relay.

31.00: Men's 4x 100m medley relay.

32.00: Women's 4x 100m medley relay.

33.00: Men's 400m medley relay.

34.00: Women's 400m medley relay.

35.00: Men's 4x 200m medley relay.

36.00: Women's 4x 200m medley relay.

37.00: Men's 400m medley relay.

38.00: Women's 400m medley relay.

39.00: Men's 4x 100m medley relay.

40.00: Women's 4x 100m medley relay.

41.00: Men's 400m medley relay.

42.00: Women's 400m medley relay.

43.00: Men's 4x 200m medley relay.

44.00: Women's 4x 200m medley relay.

45.00: Men's 400m medley relay.

46.00: Women's 400m medley relay.

47.00: Men's 4x 100m medley relay.

48.00: Women's 4x 100m medley relay.

49.00: Men's 400m medley relay.

50.00: Women's 400m medley relay.

51.00: Men's 4x 200m medley relay.

52.00: Women's 4x 200m medley relay.

53.00: Men's 400m medley relay.

54.00: Women's 400m medley relay.

55.00: Men's 4x 100m medley relay.

56.00: Women's 4x 100m medley relay.

FOOTBALL: DISGRACED COVENTRY FORWARD FACES THREE-MATCH BAN BUT IS LIKELY MATCH WINNER IN REPLAYED TIE

## Speedie exonerated by Sillett and ordered to carry on

By Clive White

David Speedie was yesterday exonerated for his sending off last week at Sunderland by John Sillett, the Coventry City manager, and told to carry on in exactly the same manner for tonight's Littlewoods Cup quarter-final replay against the Wearhairs.

Speedie and Gary Bennett, of Sunderland, were sent off for fighting and face a three-match suspension, but after watching a video of the incident Sillett pronounced his own "not guilty" verdict. "I think Speedie was harshly treated. He was not to blame for the incident and I don't think it was a case which warranted a sending-off," Sillett said.

Consequently, will not be told to curb his temper for a tie which is particularly important to the midlands club. Sillett said: "If I tell him to curb his natural aggression and enthusiasm I have lost him as a player. I have to keep that fire burning inside him but make sure that he keeps it under control."

Speedie, the scorer of Coventry's last three goals, as the most likely match-winner, from the home team's point of view. Though when it comes to scoring goals and winning matches there are not too many candidates for Coventry, who will again be

without Drinkell because of a back injury and also possibly McGrath with a gashed shin.

Coventry have scored only once in their last five matches while their record of 18 goals in 23 matches is, with Charlton Athletic, the worst in the League.

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## League acts over payment claims

By Louise Taylor

The Football League confirmed yesterday that it was investigating allegations that Swindon Town officials made irregular payments to players.

A League spokesman revealed it is inquiring into a possible breach of regulation 67, which dictates that all payments made to professionals must be included in their contract. If the allegations are proved, Swindon, and the other clubs involved, could be demoted to the third division at the end of this season.

The spokesman added that the League had also received correspondence from the Football Association concerning a separate allegation that £5,000 had been distributed by the club in a manner at odds with league regulations.

Meanwhile, police were investigating claims that Dave King, the former club secretary, who was dismissed last week, had received abusive telephone calls at his Wilts home.

Superintendent Glyn Symes denied suggestions that his officers were tapping King's phone, and said: "Mr King made a complaint, but after looking into it we are not doing anything

**Gregory joins Argyle**

John Gregory, dismissed as manager of Portsmouth earlier this month after 50 weeks in charge at Fratton Park, has signed a one-year contract with Plymouth Argyle as a player at the age of 35.

He will play a testimonial match against Tottenham Hotspur on Friday and will be under consideration for a place

in the Argyle team for the second division match against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Home Park on February 3.

Ken Brown, the Plymouth manager, whose side have won only once since mid-October, said: "I've gone for experience because we need a wise head in our situation."

At 12.45 on Sunday I know

about it, because nothing he said could amount to a criminal matter. As far as we are concerned, it is a domestic matter between him and the club, and we suggested that if he wants to end it, he should contact a solicitor and pursue the matter through the civil courts."

The FA has already charged David Hillier, the club's chairman, and Lou Macari, the former manager, with breaking its betting regulations.

Hillier has admitted that he placed money against his own team to lose an FA Cup tie.

Following Swindon's 5-0 FA Cup defeat at Newcastle United, a £4,000 cheque is alleged to have been paid to Hillier as a result of his winning bet.

"It was an insurance policy taken out by Swindon Town as cover for expenses for taking 20 people to Newcastle to prepare for the tie," the chairman said.

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# Gower decides he will start anew with Hampshire

By Alan Lee  
Cricket Correspondent

David Gower yesterday ended months of personal agonizing and public speculation by confirming that he is to leave Leicestershire and will continue his county career with Hampshire. It was a decision, he disclosed, which caused him several sleepless nights.

Hampshire has long been his likely destination, as reported in *The Times* last month, but Gower repeatedly postponed a final decision, largely through a binding sense of loyalty to the only club he has ever served.

Even last night, as he prepared to travel to Southampton to sign a contract likely to keep him at Hampshire for the rest of his playing days, Gower was at pains to stress that he is not leaving Leicester on bad terms. Nor, significantly, is he leaving without pangs of regret.

"It was a horribly difficult decision," he explained. "I suppose I finally made up my mind on Sunday night, after a week at a health club had helped clear my head. But it has not been easy to break links with a place where I have been happy for 15 years and I have found this a very hard day."

"There is nothing and nobody within the club which has driven me away. I have no quarrel with the club or the players. It is simply that there are a lot of other factors involved and I eventually decided that the possibility of a completely new start has more advantages than risks."

It is an open secret that the most pressing motivation for a change of scene has been the collapse of Gower's private life. He and his fiancée, Vicki Stewart, announced their separation in *The Times* on New Year's Day; since then he has seldom been out of the spotlight, any yearning for anonymity being destroyed by his notorious nocturnal brush with a hired car and the broken ice of a St Moritz lake.

He retreated, last week, to Champneys Health Resort in

Leicester, eager as much to relax and escape as to make use of the facilities. It was there that he reached a verdict on his future, a verdict which will disappoint Kent, who had actively courted him.

Capped by Leicestershire in 1977, Gower captained the club for five seasons, including his last two. He still has strong ties in the area and does not intend to sell his home in the foreseeable future. Despite it all, however, he is plainly relishing the prospect of new challenges in fresh pastures.

"Hampshire are a good side and it is a place I like," he said. "I get along very well with Mark Nicholas, their captain, and I am greatly looking forward to bat regularly with Robin Smith."

A revitalized Gower, freed from the public and private shackles which have recently been diluting his talent, will be an enormous bonus for English cricket and I believe he has chosen wisely in his quest for peace of mind."

The chairman of the Hampshire cricket committee, Jimmy Gray, said: "What we liked about David was the enthusiasm he still has for the game. He told us he is very keen to get into the England team and he thought he could best achieve it by joining us. He is coming to Hampshire purely to play cricket. There is no question of him becoming captain or vice captain. But we shall use his knowledge."

## Hotel staff against Gatting

From Richard Streeton, Johannesburg

In a remarkable display of industrial action, 300 black hotel workers where Mike Gatting's English cricketers are staying yesterday demonstrated against the tour.

Nearly all the hotel's morning shift of maids, porters and kitchen staff paraded up and down escalators linking two floors. They marched around a coffee lounge before staging a sit-down in an area leading to restaurants and shops.

The management handed them a statement which said they were taking part in an illegal work stoppage in

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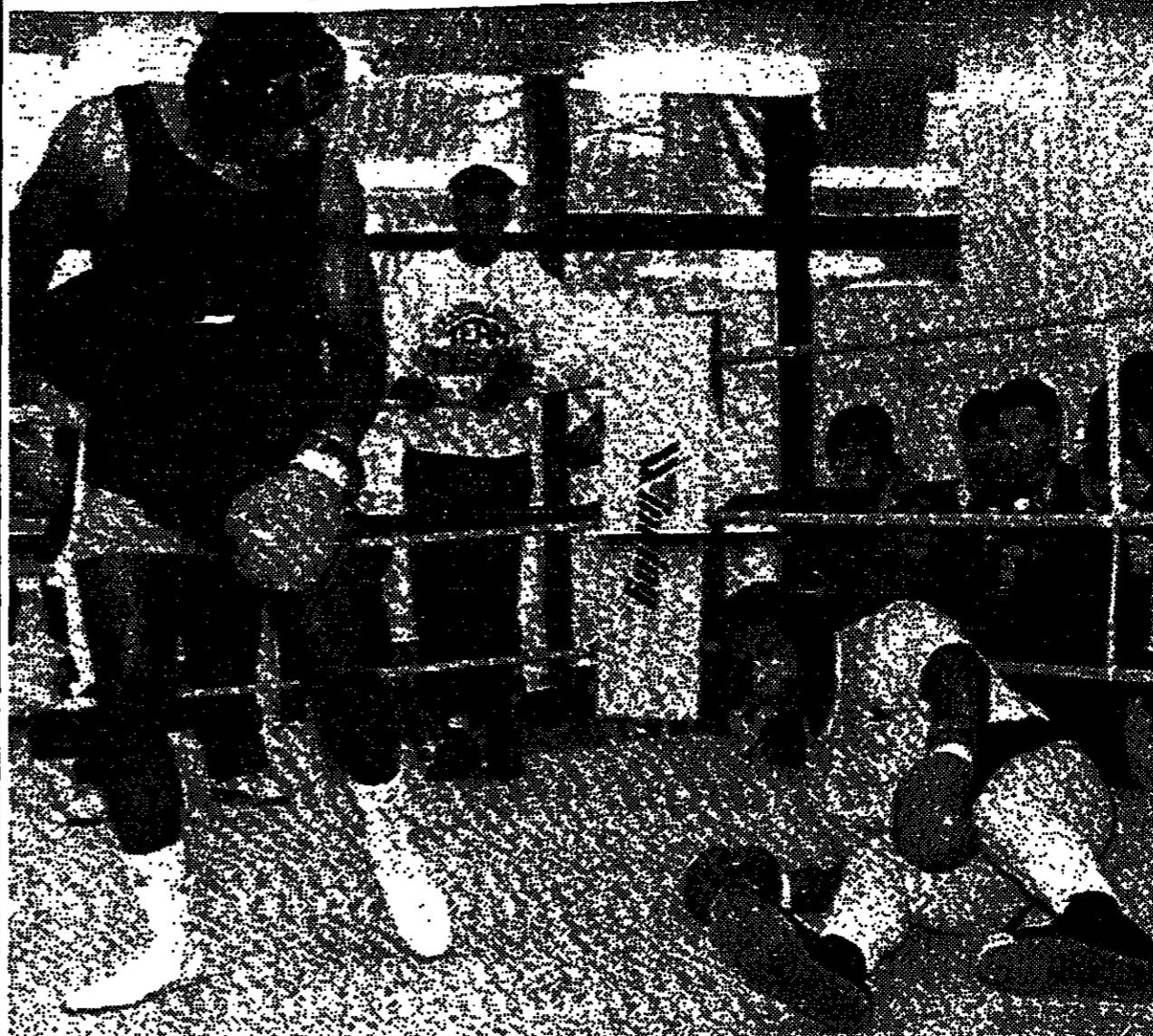
## A peaceful handover

Viscount Mountgarret, ousted as Yorkshire's president last week, has urged members not to voice any criticism of the committee's handling of the affair.

He said yesterday: "The club must now unite and pull in one direction under the new president, Sir Leonard Hutton."

**Rugby death**  
Mark Sugden, who won 28 caps for Ireland between 1925 and 1931 and was his country's most capped scrum half, has died aged 87. Obituary, page 16.

## Back-Page drama as Tyson tumbles



Gower, back in Leicester for the first time in a fortnight, arrived at Grace Road to tell Turner he would not change his mind. He had not slept the previous night and admitted to feeling tired and frazzled.

Capped by Leicestershire in 1977, Gower captained the club for five seasons, including his last two. He still has strong ties in the area and does not intend to sell his home in the foreseeable future. Despite it all, however, he is plainly relishing the prospect of new challenges in fresh pastures.

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Francisco, the former world champion, Terry Griffiths, had already been separately interviewed by officers from the Serious Crimes Squad following allegations of a betting coup concerning Griffiths' 5-1 first round victory over Francisco at the Benson and Hedges Masters in Wembley a year ago.

Some leading bookmakers, notably Ladbrokes, expressed concern over an unusual pattern of betting on the scoreline and on advice from the Betting Office Licensees Association (BOLA) they refused to pay out an estimated £50,000 to winners until they had been satisfied that there had been no fraud.

After preliminary investigations, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association and BOLA asked police to investigate.

Griffiths, a highly respected professional, and Francisco, the former British Open champion who has fallen to No. 23 in the world standings, have consistently proclaimed their innocence.

Yesterday's questioning also concerned Francisco's defeat by Tony Knowles in the 1986 Masters — also in the first round and by 5-1.

The solicitor for Francisco, Tony Browne, said yesterday: "Francisco has been assisting the police with their inquiries into two Benson and Hedges tournaments, in January 1986 and January 1989."

"We wish to stress that he has done absolutely nothing wrong. He has committed no offence of any description. It is expected that he will be released shortly."

After last year's controversy, Francisco, who is married and has four sons, said of the allegations: "It is a complete fabrication; I played to win — we all do."

"No player would do anything like this because there is too much prize-money and prestige at stake."

Leinster will win his 44th cap, but displaces Neil Francis.

Both John Fitzgerald and

## Welsh referees want hard line maintained

Forty leading Welsh referees will gather in Bridgend tomorrow to discuss with the Welsh Rugby Union the use of the sin-bin — at present in its second experimental season in Wales — and the powers of the touch judges in international matches (David Hands writes).

In the wake of the Kevin Moseley dismissal during the match between Wales and France last weekend, there have been calls to maintain the hard line preferred by Fred Howard, the English official who sent off the Pontypool lock for stamping. "We want to ensure that any illegal use of the boot means the player must be sent off," Eirian Davies, the secretary of the Welsh Society of Rugby Union Referees, said.

"Forget the sin-bin; they must go, even if there has been no previous individual or general warning. The incident over the weekend has highlighted the problem."

"We are getting reports of players being sent to the sin-bin for trampling and kicking offences. From now on we want to see them sent off for doing that. What we would like to do is bring greater uniformity and increase the safety for players at all levels."

Essentially, however, the Welsh officials and the London Society, who discussed violence in the game last week, are looking for guidance in matters where they already have power to act.

## Stock escape

Although fire caused extensive damage at the bat-making factory of Worcester chairman Duncan Fearnley yesterday, firemen were able to stop the blaze spreading to stock with a value of some £500,000.

**Hood's prize**

The Scottish champion, Donnie Hood, has been rewarded for Monday's convincing points victory over Dean Lynch of Swansea, with an official eliminating bout for the British bantam-weight boxing championship against the former Commonwealth flyweight champion, Keith Wallace, of Liverpool, in Glasgow on March 10.

Paul Tern, the company's managing director, and last year's president of Sheffield Rugby Union Club, said yesterday: "The Games are going to happen, and they are going to be a success."

## Student Games get a precious medal boost

By Peter Davenport

Whatever problems the organizers of the World Student Games, to be held in Sheffield next year, have experienced, at least the athletes now know it will be worth turning up.

A company with a 200-year tradition of work with precious metals yesterday offered to provide all the gold, silver and bronze medals that will be awarded in the event.

A total of 355 medals, made to a special design which is to be the subject of a national competition for students at universities, colleges and polytechnics throughout the United Kingdom, are to be produced by Thessco, a Sheffield-based company that is one of the world's

## Defector rues the timing of decision

By William Peakin  
and Alan Lorimer

Since forsaking the official dinner following Romania's rugby union international match against Scotland at Murrayfield last month to seek political asylum in Britain, Cristian Raducanu has kept a low profile. That has been as much to do with the timing of his defection as the need to have Home Office advice in such circumstances but it leaves Raducanu with mixed feelings.

"I wish I had stayed and fought," Raducanu said yesterday as he announced in Edinburgh his decision to make a new life for his young family in Scotland and continue his promising rugby career with the Boroughmuir club.

Had it not been for the uprising against the Ceausescu regime, Raducanu might have been all but forgotten by the media. But as the world focused on events in Romania it was inevitable that the off-the-peg forward would remain a subject of interest.

While Raducanu lay low in Scotland, the fighting broke out in Bucharest where his wife, Andre, and their three-month-old daughter, Katrina, were hiding. "I was very concerned for the safety of my family," Raducanu said. "They and my friends were in terrible danger. I could not get through on the telephone — it was terrible."

"I had no knowledge about the coup, it came very quickly. Had I known I would have stayed. I would have wanted to be part of the revolution. I would have fought against Ceausescu and his men but I had made up my mind to get out of Romania in October. The politics were not right and I was after a better quality of life for me and my family."

## Doubly important to keep low profile

Raducanu, aged 22, who at 18 became the youngest player to represent his country at rugby, said he had been unable to tell anyone but his wife of his decision to defect. "None of my teammates knew it," he said.

While Raducanu awaits a decision by the Home Office on his permanent residence on his permanent residence — a spokesman yesterday through it would take another month — Hugh McKay, of the Scottish Refugee Council, explained the necessity for the secrecy that has surrounded the player. As a policeman in Romania, inevitably there had been rumours that Raducanu worked for, or had links with, the detested Securitate secret police.

"The standard advice for any political refugee is to keep a low profile and in the case of a celebrity this is doubly important," McKay said.

During the six weeks he has been in Edinburgh Raducanu has kept himself at a peak of fitness and on Saturday played his first match for Boroughmuir against Middlesbrough. It seems likely that he will make his first appearance in the McEwan's National League for Boroughmuir when they play Glasgow High/Kelvinside on Saturday.

## Still hoping for a World Cup place

His thoughts are also with his national side. "I have had no dialogue with the Romanian federation," he said. "If I asked I would play for Romania again but not in Bucharest. I still hope to be in their World Cup team."

He has been swiftly impressed with life in the West. "I have trained with Boroughmuir and in addition I have done a lot of running and have played squash at the Craiglockhart sports centre. The facilities are so much better here. There is good equipment, particularly the scrummaging machines. We have only a few and they are very old."

Raducanu, who has made 11 appearances for Romania and played in the 1987 World Cup, is trying to adjust to the difference in playing styles. "Here the ball is kept in play much more. You try to handle more often."

That view may change after Saturday's first taste of league rugby but at least he has a club to play for. His old club, Dynamo Bucharest, has been disbanded.



Bubka: a date in Grenoble

## Fresh heights

The Soviet pole vaulters, Sergei Bubka and Rodion Gataullin, the only two men to have cleared six metres, will be in opposition at the Grenoble Pole Vault Masters on March 10.

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